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NORTH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Kurt L. Hudson, individually and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Wells Fargo & Company and Wells Fargo
Bank, N.A.,

Defendant.

CV 21 8296
Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

KAW

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Losing your home through foreclosure is the most disruptive financial and emotional event that an individual can experience.

2. Recognizing this, Congress set aside \$50 billion in stimulus funding for the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). Created in the wake of the mortgage crisis, HAMP was designed to keep people in their homes, providing a measure of stability to homeowners facing unemployment, disability or other financial hardships.

3. Wells Fargo accepted up to \$6.4 billion in HAMP funding, but failed to fulfill its obligations and duties to its customers and beneficiaries under HAMP's loan modification program.

4. Rather than use software developed by Fannie Mae to calculate a borrower's eligibility for HAMP, Wells Fargo and its vendor Black Night, developed its own proprietary tool. Wells Fargo now admits that this tool caused systematic miscalculations that led to Wells Fargo wrongfully denying loan modifications to over 870 borrowers who qualified for a loan modification under HAMP. Of those, Wells Fargo admits it foreclosed on 545 borrowers when it should have instead offered them a loan modification.

5. Loan modifications often substantially reduce borrower's monthly payments.

6. Plaintiff, Kurt L. Hudson, was the exact type of person whom HAMP was supposed to help. In 2005, he was working full-time and bought a retirement condo in Hillsboro Beach, Florida.

7. When the recession hit, however, he was forced to retire early and move to Florida because of medical and other financial hardship reasons and needed the help that HAMP was supposed to provide.

8. Rather than extend a HAMP modification, Wells Fargo miscalculated it and initiated foreclosure proceedings in 2015. Mr. Hudson fought foreclosure pro se for years, all the way to the

1 appellate court in Florida but his retirement home was eventually foreclosed on first by the
2 Condominium Association and then 4 months later by Wells Fargo.

3 9. As part of its voluntary remediation program—designed to reassure investors and the
4 public that Wells Fargo can be a trusted brand once again—Wells Fargo has sent checks of up to
5 \$25,000 to some but has not contacted Mr. Hudson or sent him a check. The accompanying letters to
6 others state that Wells Fargo had discovered that they were not offered a loan modification due to a
7 faulty computer program calculation and if not for the error, they would have been approved for a
8 HAMP modification.
9

10 10. Wells Fargo's letters did not give details about the error or explain how Wells Fargo
11 determined the amounts offered by its checks, but, nonetheless, assured that the checks should be
12 sufficient to make things right.
13

14 11. Seeking full and fair compensation, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and
15 others similarly affected by Wells Fargo's faulty modification calculations but who have not been
16 contacted by Wells Fargo or who were not advised or notified previously of the substantial computer
17 errors made by Wells Fargo and its computer program. Wells Fargo intentionally and knowingly
18 concealed the wrongful calculations from Plaintiffs and the public for several years and only disclosed
19 in its SEC filings because government regulators were knocking on its door
20

21 II. JURISDICTION

22 12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)
23 because this is a class action wherein the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000,
24 exclusive of interest and costs, there are 1,152,000 Members plus Plaintiff estimated to be in the
25 proposed class, and at least one member of the class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from the
26 Defendant.
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1 to Wells Fargo's quarterly filing for September 30, 2018 with the Securities & Exchange Commission
2 (SEC), the bank holds \$284 billion in mortgage debt, and another \$36 billion on second-mortgages.²

3 19. At the end of 2016, federal regulators revealed that Wells Fargo's employees had
4 "secretly created millions of unauthorized bank and credit card accounts without their customers
5 knowing it."³

6 20. In July 2017, the *New York Times* revealed that Wells Fargo had charged more than
7 800,000 borrowers for "force-placed" car insurance that they did not want or need.⁴ The bank was only
8 allowed to charge for "force-placed" insurance if the car-loan customer did not have their own auto
9 insurance, but these customers *did* have their own insurance.⁵ The *New York Times* reported that 25,000
10 Wells Fargo borrowers had their vehicles wrongfully repossessed as a result of Wells Fargo adding these
11 additional premium amounts for the force-placed insurance to consumers' monthly loan statements.⁶

12 21. In April 2018, federal regulators settled an enforcement action with Wells Fargo for \$1
13 billion related to its force-placement of unneeded auto insurance and on February 21, 2020, \$3.0 Billion
14 was paid in penalties to the Department of Justice and state regulators for the opening of fraudulent
15 accounts.⁷ Wells Fargo also entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the Department of
16 Justice to settle a criminal investigation into its conduct. *See* Exhibit 2.

17 22. And now, Wells Fargo has caused certain customers to lose their homes and suffer
18 financial, physical, and emotional hardships. In August 2018, Wells Fargo admitted that a "software
19 error" had caused it to deny mortgage modifications to 625 borrowers who actually qualified for and
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25 ² Wells Fargo & Company, *Form 10-Q for Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 2018*, SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Oct. 24, 2018), <http://tinyurl.com/ybzt2wl><http://tinyurl.com/ybzt2wl>.

26 ³ Jackie Wattles et al., *Wells Fargo's 20-month nightmare*, CNN (Apr. 24, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/cnn-20-mo-nightmare>.

27 ⁴ Gretchen Morgenson, *Wells Fargo Forced Unwanted Auto Insurance on Borrowers*, NEW YORK TIMES (July 27, 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/y8p5c4sd>.

28 ⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Matthew Goldstein, *Wells Fargo Pays \$1 Billion to Federal Regulators*, NEW YORK TIMES (Apr. 20, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/wf-reg-fines>.

1 were entitled to a mortgage modification under federal law.⁸ This admission was based on information
2 it knew in 2013 but chose not to disclose for nearly five years.

3 23. In November 2018, Wells Fargo announced that it had understated the number of affected
4 borrowers and that it was actually 40% more; now Wells Fargo claims a total of 874 were wrongfully
5 denied loan modifications by the software error.⁹ These borrowers should have received a loan
6 modification under the Federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), but were incorrectly
7 denied.¹⁰

8 24. In the end, more than 545 mortgage borrowers lost their homes through foreclosures
9 because of Wells Fargo's software error.¹¹

10 25. This lawsuit seeks remedies for the harm Wells Fargo caused all borrowers who were
11 erroneously denied a mortgage modification and/or foreclosed upon and who have not been contacted by
12 Wells Fargo and advised of the computer calculation errors because of Wells Fargo's intentional
13 concealment and non-disclosure.

14 26. For at least the past fifteen years, one of America's largest financial institutions, Wells
15 Fargo (i.e., Wells Fargo Bank, N.A and Wells Fargo & Company, collectively), has failed to correct
16 serious deficiencies in its infrastructure for managing risks to consumers and complying with the law.
17 As a result, Wells Fargo's customers have been exposed to countless abuses, including racial
18 discrimination, wrongful foreclosure, illegal vehicle repossession, and fraudulently opened accounts.

19 27. In response to these issues, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), the
20 Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), and Federal Reserve, took public enforcement
21 actions against Wells Fargo in 2016 and 2018. These actions resulted in the agencies entering into five

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26 ⁸ Ben Lane, *Wells Fargo reveals software error wrongly denied much-needed mortgage modifications*, *Housing Wire* (Aug. 3, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y8j9lvg>.

27 ⁹ Ben Lane, *Wells Fargo reveals software error led to hundreds of faulty foreclosures*, *Housing Wire* (Nov. 6, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y94ezdie>.

28 ¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

1 separate consent orders with Wells Fargo: the CFPB's and OCC's September 8, 2016 sales practices
2 consent orders; the Federal Reserve's February 2, 2018 risk management consent order; and the CFPB's
3 and OCC's April 20, 2018 compliance risk management consent orders. Under each of the
4 aforementioned consent orders, Wells Fargo committed to take steps to remediate harmed customers and
5 develop effective internal controls over risks such as employee misconduct. To date, Wells Fargo has
6 yet to fully satisfy any of the aforementioned orders.
7

8 28. In February 2019, Representative Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the U.S. House of
9 Representatives Committee on Financial Services ("Committee"), initiated an investigation to (1)
10 determine and evaluate the non-public actions taken by Wells Fargo's board, management, and
11 regulators to facilitate improvements at Wells Fargo; and (2) identify policy solutions to ensure
12 consumers are protected from recidivist megabanks like Wells Fargo. The Committee staff report
13 details the results of the Committee staffs investigation. *See Exhibit 1*, p.4.
14

15 29. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is a large, nationally chartered, depository bank headquartered in
16 Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Bank is a subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company, a publicly traded bank
17 holding company headquartered in San Francisco, California. Wells Fargo & Company does not
18 manage the Bank's day-to-day operations, but the Company exercises control over the Bank's
19 management team and has the authority to hire and fire the Bank's managers, set company policies and
20 establish the Bank's business strategy. Wells Fargo & Company and its subsidiaries are collectively
21 referred to in the report as "Wells Fargo."
22

23 30. In response to Chairwoman Waters' and Chairman Green's letters, Wells Fargo, its board
24 members, and the regulators, collectively produced approximately 330,000 pages of records. In addition
25 to reviewing these records, Committee staff received briefings from the Federal Reserve, OCC, CFPB,
26 SEC, and Wells Fargo. Committee staff conducted interviews with key executives at Wells Fargo and
27
28

1 the former Chair of the board's Risk Committee. Additionally, Committee staff interviewed officials at
 2 the Federal Reserve, OCC, and CFPB.

3 31. Committee staff's review of the records and witness interviews revealed the following:

- 4 • financial regulators knew about serious, enterprise-wide deficiencies at Wells
- 5 Fargo for years without alerting the public;
- 6 • Wells Fargo's board of directors failed to ensure that management could completely
- 7 address the Company's risk management deficiencies;
- 8 • Wells Fargo and political appointees at the CFPB had backchannel communications
- 9 regarding the CFPB's Compliance Risk Management Consent Order;
- 10 • Wells Fargo's board of directors allowed management to repeatedly submit
- 11 materially deficient plans in response to the consent orders;
- 12 • Wells Fargo's board of directors and management prioritized financial and other
- 13 considerations above fixing issues identified by regulators;
- 14 • Wells Fargo's board of directors failed to hold senior management accountable for
- 15 repeatedly not meeting regulator's expectations under the consent orders;
- 16 • during the Committee's March 12, 2019 hearing, Wells Fargo's then CEO Sloan
- 17 gave inaccurate and misleading testimony about the status of Wells Fargo's
- 18 compliance with the requirements of the 2018 Compliance Risk Management
- 19 consent orders; and
- 20 • the potential for widespread consumer abuse at Wells Fargo remains. *See Exhibit*
- 21 *1*, p. 14.

22 **B. The Federal HAMP Program**

23 32. In response to rapidly deteriorating financial market conditions in the late summer and
 24 early fall of 2008, Congress enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The centerpiece of the
 25 Act was the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), which required the Secretary of Treasury to
 26 "implement a plan" to "minimize foreclosures" and keep troubled mortgage-borrowers in their homes.¹²

27 33. In addition to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act and the TARP, many mortgage
 28 lenders, including Wells Fargo, developed internal mortgage modification or other relief programs,
 which were modeled after and had requirements for eligibility similar to HAMP.

¹² *Wigod v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 673 F.3d. 547, 556 (7th Cir. 2012).

34. The Treasury Secretary created the HAMP program to carry out Congress's mandate. HAMP received \$50 billion in TARP funds.¹³ Mortgage lenders that *chose* to participate in the HAMP program were eligible to receive allocations of these stimulus funds.

35. Wells Fargo chose to participate in HAMP.

36. To participate, Wells Fargo was required to comply with all HAMP program requirements. In exchange for up to \$6.4 billion in HAMP funds, Wells Fargo agreed to abide by all "guidelines and procedures issued by the Treasury with respect to [HAMP]" and "any supplemental documentation ... issued by the Treasury," including "Supplemental Directives." *See* Wells Fargo, *Amended and Restated Servicer Participation Agreement*, § 1(B).¹⁴

37. In a Supplemental Directive, the Treasury Secretary required loan-Servicers participating in HAMP to issue a mortgage modification to any borrower who met all the criteria to qualify. *See* Supplemental Directive 09-01 (if a borrower meets all qualifying criteria, "the servicer **MUST** offer the modification") (emphasis in original).

38. To be eligible for HAMP, borrowers needed to (among other things):

- a. Show that they had suffered a financial hardship;
- b. Be able to pay 31% of their monthly income towards the mortgage.

39. If the borrower met these eligibility criteria, the loan servicer participating in HAMP was required to issue a mortgage modification if the "Net Present Value" of the modified mortgage was positive, meaning it was "more profitable to modify the loan" than to "allow the loan to go into foreclosure."¹⁵ In simplified terms, the basic formula for calculating Net Present Value is: Net Present Value = (Expected Revenue from Modified Mortgage) - (Expected Cost of Foreclosing).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Available at <https://tinyurl.com/wells-fargo-hamp-agreement>.

¹⁵ *Wigod v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 673 F.3d 547, 557 (7th Cir. 2012).

1 40. A negative Net Present Value meant that the lender was expected to lose money by
2 foreclosing on rather than modifying the mortgage.

3 41. If the Net Present Value calculation was positive, the Treasury Secretary required the
4 loan servicer to issue a modification. If it was negative, the servicer could choose to offer a
5 modification, but did not have to. *See* Supplemental Directive 09-01. Loan servicers received HAMP
6 money for every loan modification they issued, as an incentive to offer modifications.

7 42. When modifying a mortgage, HAMP-participating lenders were required to reduce the
8 borrower's monthly mortgage payment to get it "as close as possible to 31 percent" of the borrower's
9 monthly income.¹⁶ To achieve this, loan servicers were required to reduce the interest rate on the loan.¹⁷
10 If this reduction was insufficient to get the payment down to 31 percent of borrower income, the loan
11 servicer was required to convert the mortgage to a 40-year term.¹⁸ If that wasn't enough, the servicer
12 had to place the loan in forbearance and waive interest on the loan while in forbearance.¹⁹

13 43. Borrowers who qualified for HAMP were generally given a "trial" modification for three
14 months or more. If they were able to pay the modified amount and remained HAMP-eligible, they could
15 receive a permanent modification.

16 **C. Wells Fargo's Proprietary Software Miscalculates "Net Present Value," Wrongly**
17 **Denying Mortgage Modifications to Borrowers**

18 44. Fannie Mae created a software tool for loan servicers to use for calculating Net Present
19 Value (NPV) for HAMP purposes.²⁰ Fannie Mae is a financial-services corporation created by
20 Congress.

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26 ¹⁶ Supplemental Directive 09-01.

27 ¹⁷ *Id.*

28 ¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *See* Supplemental Directive 09-01, at *4, available at <https://tinyurl.com/hamp-supp-dir>.

45. As the Treasury Secretary notes, Fannie Mae's NPV calculator was made available to HAMP-participating loan-servicers on the HAMP servicer web portal, "www.financialstability.gov."²¹

46. The Treasury Secretary's Supplemental Directive 09-01 allows loan servicers with \$40 billion or more in mortgage loans to use their own proprietary NPV calculator, rather than the default calculator provided on the HAMP web portal.²²

47. In a July 2018 SEC filing, Wells Fargo revealed that it had discovered a "calculation error" in a software tool it used to determine whether to issue a mortgage loan modification.²³ The tool miscalculated certain fees when "determining whether a customer qualified for a mortgage loan modification pursuant to the requirements" of HAMP.²⁴ Wells Fargo said that the software error was corrected on October 20, 2015; yet Wells Fargo did not disclose the error for another three years.²⁵ Wells Fargo determined that the software error had affected "approximately 625 customers," who were "incorrectly denied a loan modification."²⁶ Wells Fargo said it had set aside \$8 million to "remediate" the error without any explanation as to how it calculated this amount.²⁷

48. In an October 2018 SEC filing, Wells Fargo expanded the number of consumers harmed by its conduct. It said that although the software error had been fixed on October 20, 2015, Wells Fargo had discovered "related errors" that had continued until April 30, 2018.²⁸ Wells Fargo said, "Similar to the initial calculation error, these errors caused an overstatement of the attorneys' fees that were included for purposes of determining whether a customer qualified for a mortgage loan modification."²⁹ Attorneys' fees are relevant to HAMP's Net Present Value calculation because they are a substantial

²¹ *Id.* at *4-5.

²² *Id.* at *5.

²³ Wells Fargo & Company, *10-Q for Period Ending June 30, 2018*, SEC (July 25, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y9te58qx>.

²⁴ *Id.* at *5.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Wells Fargo & Co., *10-Q for Period Ending September 30, 2018*, <https://tinyurl.com/ybzt2wl>.

²⁹ *Id.* at *6.

1 cost in the foreclosure process. An overstatement of attorney's fees would exaggerate the loss that the
 2 lender expected to take on the loan, reducing the Net Present Value of a modification, and erroneously
 3 reducing the number of modifications offered. As a result of the attorneys' fees overstatement, "870
 4 customers were incorrectly denied a loan modification," according to Wells Fargo.³⁰ Of those, 545
 5 customers lost their homes to foreclosure.³¹

6
 7 49. In its latest SEC filing, Wells Fargo said it had "contacted a substantial majority of the
 8 approximately 870 affected customers to provide remediation."³² Wells Fargo's "remediation" is
 9 typically a check of between \$1,400 and \$25,000. The basis for these amounts is not explained or
 10 supported.

11 50. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit on behalf of himself and other similarly situated borrowers
 12 throughout the U.S. who have not been contacted because this amount is insufficient to compensate for
 13 the loss of their homes and other damages and injuries suffered.

14 51. Wells Fargo essentially concedes as much when, in its SEC filing, it also stated that it is
 15 giving customers "the option also to pursue no-cost mediation with an independent mediator"³³ to
 16 negotiate additional compensation.

17
 18 **D. Wells Fargo's Miscalculation Errors and Resulting Foreclosures Caused Class**
 19 **Members Substantial Financial and Other Harm**

20 52. In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, homeowners were struggling to make ends meet.

21 53. Plaintiff and Class Members applied for loan modifications and many were told that they
 22 did not qualify for a loan modification. Plaintiff and Class Members had little choice but to take Wells
 23 Fargo at its word that they did not qualify for HAMP, they relied on and trusted Wells Fargo to perform
 24 the Net Present Value calculation correctly.

25
 26
 27 ³⁰ *Id.*

28 ³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ *Id.*

1 54. Starting in the fall of 2018 Wells Fargo sent some borrowers a form letter. The letter
2 said:

3 When you were considered for a loan modification, you weren't approved, and now we
4 realize that you should have been. We based our decision on a faulty calculation, and we're
5 sorry. If it had been correct, you would have been approved for a trial modification.

6 55. Included with the letter, Wells Fargo sent some borrowers a check ranging from \$1,400
7 to \$25,000. Wells Fargo did not explain the basis for the amount offered to customers and why some
8 were offered more than others. Nor has Wells Fargo told borrowers what the "faulty calculation" was or
9 why it occurred or explained how it was discovered.

10 56. Wells Fargo has not sent Plaintiff (or Class Members) a letter or check or otherwise
11 notified or contacted him regarding the computer error and wrongful denial of his mortgage
12 modification even though Wells Fargo overstated the foreclosure attorney or other fees and attempted to
13 refund the inappropriate fees charged during a review of the account on October 26, 2016 after the
14 modification had been denied. Wells Fargo did not correctly perform the Net Present Value Calculation
15 correctly because Plaintiff alleges it estimated and included and overstated legal fees pertaining to
16 redemption of the property from the tax buyer at the condo association's foreclosure sale. Plaintiff also
17 alleges Wells Fargo erroneously included the \$17,200 estimated redemption costs amount in its net
18 present value calculation, which would have overstated the expected cost of foreclosing.
19

20 57. Wells Fargo did not notify or contact Plaintiff about the computer error even when
21 Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal of his modification denial alleging Wells Fargo's conflict of
22 interest and other inappropriate conduct. Wells Fargo did not approve Plaintiff's and other Class
23 Members modification requests because it would have lost substantial revenue and would not retain and
24 continue to collect various late fees, legal fees and other fees from borrowers, per its servicing
25 agreement.
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1 58. Wells Fargo did not respond to Plaintiff's allegations set forth in its administrative appeal
2 request or explain why the modification was denied; nor did Wells Fargo disclose to Plaintiff the
3 software miscalculation of legal fee errors, which it knew about as early as October 2015 but instead
4 filed its foreclosure petition about the same time period and continued to conspire to conceal the
5 computer error and other related errors until 2018. Wells Fargo may have known about the errors and
6 miscalculations as early as 2013.

7
8 59. During 2013, 2014 and 2015, Plaintiff had numerous recorded telephone conversations
9 with his assigned home preservation specialist, Susan Hartman, an employee of Wells Fargo, who failed
10 to disclose the computer calculation error regarding legal fees and other related errors and continued to
11 conspire to conceal and cover up the errors regarding Plaintiff's modification request and wrongful
12 denial thereof by Wells Fargo.

13
14 60. On June 29, 2015, Wells Fargo and its employee continued to conceal and conspire to
15 cover up its wrongful, fraudulent and grossly negligent errors by switching Plaintiff's home preservation
16 specialist contact to, Samantha Brokenshire, in an attempt to "short circuit" all the questions Plaintiff
17 was asking pertaining to his mortgage modification request and inappropriate conduct on the part of
18 Wells Fargo, including an apparent conflict of interest. Wells Fargo never denied or responded to
19 Plaintiff's conflict of interest allegation in his appeal regarding its modification denial, nor disclosed the
20 computer error to Plaintiff regarding the overstatement of legal fees and other related costs and errors.
21 Wells Fargo never explained its net present value calculation or specifically delineated why the
22 modification was denied.

23
24 61. As Wells Fargo admits in its letters, customers suffered serious financial harm as a result
25 of foreclosures that should never have happened. In the letters, Wells Fargo says, we've carefully
26 considered what we can do for you. You'll find a payment enclosed to help make up for your financial
27
28

1 loss (emphasis added.) Wells Fargo also admits in the letter that customers suffered negative reporting
2 on their credit reports.

3 62. Although Wells Fargo does not acknowledge it, Class Members suffered other substantial
4 harm as well.

5 63. Plaintiff, in 2005, was working full-time as an attorney in Chicago, Illinois and bought a
6 retirement condo in Hillsboro Beach, Florida for \$495,000, with a down payment of \$50,000 and a first
7 mortgage from Wells Fargo of \$445,000.

8 64. Wells Fargo transferred the note and mortgage to U.S. Bank National Association, as
9 Trustee, for J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Trust 2006-WF1.

10 65. Wells Fargo continued to service Plaintiff's mortgage as servicer under a servicing
11 agreement.

12 66. In 2008, the real estate market in Florida started to experience a substantial decline in
13 home values and Plaintiff's retirement condo declined in fair market value by more than 50% but
14 regained some of its value by 2014, the time of the modification request.

15 67. In December 2011, for medical and other financial hardship reasons, Plaintiff was forced
16 to retire from the law firm where he had worked for almost 20 years and moved to Florida.

17 68. On Sept. 4, 2014, Plaintiff requested a mortgage modification under HAMP, HARP and
18 the National Mortgage Settlement Agreement and submitted substantial documentation that he met the
19 requirements of the various modification programs. Two drive by appraisals were performed, one for
20 \$370,000 as of August 14, 2014 and the other for \$395,000 as of October 22, 2014. Additionally,
21 Plaintiff's neighbor made a written offer to buy the condo for \$405,000 in 2015.

22 69. Initially, his modification request was denied allegedly because requested documentation
23 had not been submitted. Later, the modification request was denied by Wells Fargo with no specifics,
24 other than to say Plaintiff did not meet the requirements.

1 70. On January 17, 2015, Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal of his modification denial
2 stating that Wells Fargo had a conflict of interest with regard to the modification because it will lose
3 substantial servicing fee revenue and reimbursement for late fees if it allows, recommends, or grants a
4 mortgage modification. Pursuant to its loan servicing agreement, if a modification were granted, Wells
5 Fargo would lose future revenue and revenue it collected from late fees and attorney fees that it would
6 otherwise retain. Additionally, Wells Fargo also had a conflict of interest because it had an implied
7 fiduciary relationship with Plaintiff for purposes of the modification request and also acted as a dual
8 fiduciary under the mortgage servicing agreement for the owners of the mortgage and the investors.
9 Wells Fargo acted in a dual capacity as Master Servicer and Securities Administrator under the
10 mortgage servicing and pooling agreement.
11

12 71. On January 27, 2015, Wells Fargo rendered a decision on Plaintiff's administrative
13 appeal simply stating, "you still do not meet the requirements for a loan modification" but gave no
14 specific reasons for the disqualification under HAMP. Nor did Wells Fargo disclose the computer net
15 present value miscalculation errors of legal fees and other costs.
16

17 72. Wells Fargo also denied relief to the Plaintiff under the Home Affordable Refinance
18 Program (HARP) and other modification programs, such as the National Mortgage Settlement
19 Agreement of 2012. Plaintiff alleges that the same computer miscalculation errors were employed in
20 these modification denials as well.
21

22 73. In late 2014 or early 2015, Wells Fargo started the foreclosure process but did not file its
23 foreclosure complaint until October 27, 2015. The Florida retirement condo sold for \$288,000 at the
24 first mortgage foreclosure sale on May 9, 2017 but not before it was foreclosed on by the condo
25 association for non-payment of condo assessments. Wells Fargo lost approximately \$125,200 by
26 foreclosing. It could have made a profit of about \$254,688 by modifying Plaintiff's mortgage to a
27
28

1 40 year term and reducing the interest rate to 3.6% from 6.625% and reducing the monthly payment to
2 \$1,818 from \$2,830. Plaintiff's monthly payment would have been reduced by \$1,000.

3 74. Wells Fargo was notified and knew of the unpaid condo assessments before it started the
4 foreclosure process but failed to timely pay the unpaid assessments and charge the payment to Plaintiff's
5 mortgage account just like it did with unpaid real property taxes and unpaid property insurance and
6 coverage.
7

8 75. Wells Fargo also failed to timely redeem the property for \$17,200 as required by the
9 terms of the servicing agreement and mortgage when it was sold for non-payment of condo assessments
10 on May 27, 2015. Wells Fargo had a Fiduciary duty to redeem the property under both the servicing
11 agreement and the mortgage but failed to do so.
12

13 76. Plaintiff's mortgage was in the pre-foreclosure or foreclosure process at various stages
14 between April 12, 2010 and 2018 but Plaintiff was not notified or contacted by Wells Fargo and not sent
15 a check for any injuries it may have incurred for the wrongful modification denial and wrongful
16 foreclosure caused by the computer calculation errors with regard to the overstatement of legal fees and
17 other costs.

18 77. On October 27, 2015, Wells Fargo filed and verified the wrongful judicial foreclosure
19 complaint on Plaintiff's Florida retirement condo as "Attorney In Fact" for the trustee U.S. Bank
20 National Association and investor J.P. Morgan J.P. Morgan Acquisition Trust 2006-WF1. Plaintiff
21 contested the foreclosure case and modification denial but a judgement of foreclosure was entered on
22 March 21, 2017, in Broward County, Florida's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court, Civil Division, Case
23 #2015-CA-019042. The judgment of foreclosure was issued the same day as a hearing on Wells Fargo's
24 motion for summary judgement, which was granted. Plaintiff had contested the summary judgment
25 motion with his filing of a memorandum of law and affidavit but the property was sold on May 9, 2017
26 for \$288,000.
27
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1 78. Plaintiff filed an appeal of the judgment of foreclosure in the District Court of Appeal,
2 Fourth District, State of Florida, Case No. 4D17-1177.

3 79. The appellate court affirmed the judgment of foreclosure but stated that Mr. Hudson's
4 RICO claim against Wells Fargo for inspection fees charged but not performed as mortgage servicer,
5 would be a set off, if the foreclosure judgment was pursued against him personally because he was not
6 the current owner of the property having lost title on June 9, 2015, approximately 4 months before the
7 foreclosure complaint was filed by Wells Fargo on October 27, 2015. A buyer at the condo association
8 foreclosure sale bought the property on June 9, 2015 for \$17,200 dollars. Plaintiff lost title after 10
9 years of ownership and mortgage payments because Wells Fargo did not redeem the property as
10 required under its servicing agreement and Plaintiff's mortgage and notes.

11
12 80. Plaintiff filed an appeal before the Florida Supreme Court but the case was dismissed
13 because the court said the appeal was not timely.

14
15 **E. Prior Litigation Involving Plaintiff And His Mortgage With Wells Fargo**

16 81. Wells Fargo was sued by the United States of America, the State of Florida and other
17 states for racial discrimination against Plaintiff and other African American and other minority
18 borrowers in its mortgage lending during 2004 to 2009 and paid 175 Billion dollars to settle in July 2012
19 but Plaintiff was never contacted or notified by Wells Fargo or paid any settlement amounts by Wells
20 Fargo or the State of Florida (the State of Florida received the largest allocation amount from the global
21 settlement).

22
23 82. In 2012, the United States of America and many states again sued Wells Fargo and other
24 banks for various servicer misconduct during the foreclosure crisis. There was a 25 Billion dollar
25 settlement. Plaintiff was a Class Member but again Plaintiff was not contacted and received no
26 settlement amounts from the State of Florida, even though the State of Florida received the largest
27 allocation amount of the global settlement. Wells Fargo was paid \$1.01 billion dollars by the Federal
28

1 and State governments under HAMP and HARP to provide mortgage and foreclosure relief and
2 promised \$4.34 billion dollars in relief to affected borrowers. On September 8, 2014, Plaintiff applied
3 for financial relief from Wells Fargo but was denied. See National Mortgage Settlement Consent
4 Judgment, United States District Court, District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 12-0361.

5
6 83. On October 2, 2013, the New York Attorney General filed a motion to enforce the
7 National Mortgage Settlement and force Wells Fargo to honor its agreement to provide 4.34 billion
8 dollars in mortgage modification and other relief to Class Members (including Plaintiff) but Wells Fargo
9 continued to deny a mortgage modification or other relief to Plaintiff.

10 84. In the United States District Court, Southern District of Iowa, Case Number 4-08-CV-
11 507, a case initially filed in California, Plaintiff and other Class Members claimed under RICO that
12 Wells Fargo improperly, illegally, and routinely charged Plaintiff and other borrowers via its MSP
13 computer software for the cost of property inspections it never performed whenever a borrower was 45
14 days or more late in making a mortgage payment and then ordered subsequent inspections every 25-35
15 days for as long as the borrower remained delinquent. Plaintiff was fraudulently charged fees on its
16 Wells Fargo mortgage statements for the years 2005 through 2016, and the amounts were material.

17
18 85. On February 17, 2016, Plaintiff opted out of the above RICO settlement agreement and
19 raised its claim as a defense to his foreclosure case filed by Wells Fargo. The Florida Appellate Court
20 ruled that Plaintiff's RICO claim was a valid affirmative defense and set off in the foreclosure action, if
21 Wells Fargo pursued Plaintiff personally for payment of the foreclosure judgment. If Plaintiff and the
22 circuit and appellate courts had known of Wells Fargo's concealment fraud with regard to the MSP
23 computer calculation errors and overstating of legal fees in the modification eligibility determination,
24 Plaintiff would have pursued sanctions on Wells Fargo for non-disclosure of the errors and summary
25 judgment would not have been granted in Plaintiff's foreclosure case.
26
27
28

VI. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

86. This putative class action is brought pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2), 23(b)(3), and 23(c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of the following Nationwide Class:

All persons who had any HAMP or other mortgage modification request denied by Wells Fargo between 2010 and 2018 and who filed an administrative appeal of the denial and were not notified or advised by Wells Fargo of the MSP computer calculation errors pertaining to the overstatement of foreclosure legal fees or related errors, in determining eligibility for a loan modification and Wells Fargo did not disclose the computer calculation errors as required.

In addition, Plaintiff asserts claims on behalf of the following Florida Subclass:

All persons who had any HAMP or other mortgage modification request denied and were foreclosed upon by Wells Fargo as “Attorney In Fact” for property located in Florida between 2010 and 2018 and contested the modification denial during the judicial foreclosure proceedings but were not notified or advised by Wells Fargo during the proceedings of the MSP computer calculation errors pertaining to the overstatement of foreclosure legal fees or related errors, in determining eligibility for a loan modification, and Wells Fargo did not disclose the computer calculation errors as required.

87. Excluded from the Class are: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and any of its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors, current or former employees, and any entity in which Wells Fargo has a controlling interest. Also excluded are any individuals who make a timely election to opt out of this proceeding using the proper protocol. Also excluded are: any federal, state or local governments, including any governmental departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, boards, sections, groups, counsels, or subdivisions. Lastly, excluded from the Class are: any judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as well as their immediate family Members.

1 88. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend this Class definition before the Court
2 determines whether certification is appropriate.

3 89. Numerosity. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all Members is impracticable. Wells
4 Fargo completed 1.6 million modification requests through HAMP and denied 72% or 1,152,000. The
5 exact number of affected individuals is not known.

6 90. Commonality. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class, which
7 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members. These common questions of
8 law and fact include, without limitation:
9

10 a. Whether Wells Fargo's software program or calculation protocols were
11 negligently designed and/or used;

12 b. Whether Wells Fargo's conduct violated Federal HAMP rules and was a pattern
13 of racketeering activity under 18 U.S.C. § 1961, 1962 and 1964.

14 c. What caused the miscalculation error(s) and why did Wells Fargo knowingly
15 conceal the errors from plaintiffs for many years;

16 d. What process Wells Fargo used to determine which borrowers were affected or
17 unaffected by the miscalculation error(s);

18 e. What process Wells Fargo used to determine how much money to send each
19 borrower as part of its voluntary remediation program;

20 f. What process Wells Fargo used to notify borrowers of the availability of a check
21 and other relief, given that the foreclosed property address is unlikely to be the current address;

22 g. Whether Defendant's conduct was an unlawful or unfair business practice under
23 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq.;

24 h. Whether Defendant's conduct emanated from California, such that California law
25 should be applied for all Class Members;
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i. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief and restitution;

j. Whether Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to actual, statutory, or punitive damages, and other monetary relief.

91. Typicality. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of other Class Members because each seeks to recover for injuries caused by the same calculation error and each was denied a HAMP or other mortgage modification by Wells Fargo.

92. Adequacy. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Members of the Class. Plaintiff's soon to be retained counsel will be competent and experienced in litigating class actions.

93. Superiority. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all the Members of the Class is impracticable. Furthermore, the adjudication of this controversy through a class action will avoid the possibility of inconsistent and potentially conflicting adjudication of the asserted claims. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

94. Damages for any individual Class Member are likely insufficient to justify the cost of individual litigation so that in the absence of class treatment, Defendant's violations of law inflicting substantial damages in the aggregate would go unremedied.

95. Class certification is also appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(2), because Defendant has acted or has refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate as to the Class as a whole.

VII. CHOICE OF LAW ALLEGATIONS

96. The State of California has sufficient contacts to the conduct alleged herein that California law may be uniformly applied to the claims of the proposed Class.

1 97. Wells Fargo does substantial business in California; its headquarters is located in
2 California; and a significant portion of the proposed Nationwide Class is believed to be located in
3 California and there are other similar class actions pending in California involving the computer
4 calculation error and overstatement of legal fees that may be relevant or related to this class action suit.
5 See U.S. District Court, California Northern District (San Francisco), Case No.: 3:18-CV-07354-WHA.
6

7 98. In addition, the conduct that forms the basis for each and every Class Member's claims
8 against Wells Fargo emanated from Wells Fargo's U.S. headquarters in San Francisco, California,
9 where—among other things—Wells Fargo received customer complaints, planned and concealed its
10 communications with Class Members, and set its national HAMP compliance and software auditing
11 policies with regard to its mortgage servicing business. Wells Fargo has serviced hundreds of mortgages
12 for properties located in California.
13

14 99. The State of California also has the greatest interest in applying its law to Class
15 Members' claims. Its governmental interests include not only an interest in compensating resident
16 consumers under its consumer protection laws, but also what the State has characterized as a
17 "compelling" interest in using its laws to regulate a resident corporation and preserve a business climate
18 free of fraud and deceptive practices. *Diamond Multimedia Sys. v. Sup. Ct.*, 19 Cal. 4th 1036, 1064
19 (1999).
20

21 100. If other states' laws were applied to Class Members' claims, California's interest in
22 discouraging resident corporations from engaging in the sort of unfair and deceptive practices alleged in
23 this complaint would be significantly impaired. California could not effectively regulate a company like
24 Wells Fargo, which does business throughout the United States, if it could not ensure that consumers are
25 compensated for conduct that runs afoul of its laws.
26
27
28

VIII. TOLLING ALLEGATIONS

101. Plaintiff and Class Members could not have discovered, through reasonable diligence, that Wells Fargo's software contained calculation errors that denied HAMP loan modifications to borrowers who were entitled to receive a modification under the HAMP program.

102. The evidence and means of discovering the calculation errors, and the systematic nature of the problem, were within Wells Fargo's exclusive control.

103. As a result, any applicable statutes of limitation are tolled.

104. In addition, any applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by Wells Fargo's knowing, active, intentional, and fraudulent concealment of the facts alleged herein. Wells Fargo kept Plaintiff and all Class Members ignorant of vital information essential to the pursuit of their claims, without any fault or lack of diligence on the part of Plaintiff. Razor Capital LLC v. CMAX Finance LLC, No. 17-80388, 2017 WL 3481761 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 14, 2017).

105. Wells Fargo admits in an SEC filing that it knew about the software errors as early as October 2015 but it may have known as early as 2013. Yet it continued foreclosure proceedings against Plaintiff and Class Members and did not disclose the errors until late 2018. Plaintiff learned of the error in 2019.

106. Wells Fargo was also under a continuous duty to disclose this information to Plaintiff and Class Members and to the courts whenever Wells Fargo pursued judicial foreclosures as "Attorney in Fact" for the owners of the mortgage and note or for investors.

107. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied on Wells Fargo's active and fraudulent concealment of the facts as alleged herein.

108. As a result, Wells Fargo is precluded by equitable estoppel, equitable tolling and fraudulent concealment, from relying on a statute of limitations defense.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Negligent and Gross Negligence Breach of Contract

(Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Nationwide Class)

109. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations as if fully set forth herein.

110. Under the loan servicing agreement, mortgage and Wells Fargo's HAMP agreement, Wells Fargo owed a duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to implement HAMP's requirements for offering mortgage modifications. Under California law, Plaintiff and Class Members were the intended third party beneficiaries of these agreements and the incentive payments made by the U.S. government to participating HAMP program loan servicers.

111. Wells Fargo, as loan servicer, also had a contractual duty to exercise reasonable care in the creation, implementation and use of its internal software to determine whether a mortgage modification was required under HAMP guidelines because its involvement in the loan via HAMP exceeds its conventional role. Biakanja v. Irving, 49 Cal. 2d 647 (1958), Rosetta v. Citi Mortgage, Inc., 18 Cal. App 5th 628 (2017). Wells Fargo's mortgage servicing business is a physically separate and distinct corporate business from its mortgage origination and lending business. Its Mortgage Servicing Platform (MSP) computer servers are located in Jacksonville, Florida. Its home mortgage division and loan originations are located in Des Moines, Iowa. Wells Fargo provides mortgage-servicing services to thousands, if not millions, of residential and commercial mortgages where Wells Fargo is not the lender. Wells Fargo processed Plaintiff's modification request as a mortgage servicer, not as a lender.

112. Wells Fargo had a contractual duty to ensure that borrowers who met all objective requirements were given a HAMP mortgage modification and a duty under Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.6 to maximize net present value, as loan servicer, and act for the benefit of all parties to the loan pool or investors. Plaintiff's 30 year mortgage and note is included in the loan pool.

1 113. Wells Fargo failed to exercise reasonable care in the creation, implementation, and use of
2 its internal software to determine whether a mortgage modification was required under HAMP
3 guidelines.

4 114. Wells Fargo failed to ensure that borrowers who met all objective requirements were
5 given or offered a HAMP trial mortgage modification.

6 115. Wells Fargo denied or failed to offer mortgage modifications to Plaintiff and Class
7 Members who met all objective requirements to receive a permanent HAMP mortgage modification.

8 116. Wells Fargo breached its duties to Plaintiff and Class Members by:

9 a. Failing to perform mortgage servicing functions pursuant to the servicing
10 agreement and mortgage and consistent with its responsibilities to Plaintiff and Class Members;

11 b. Creating, implementing, and using an internal software program and protocols
12 that were flawed and defective and incorrectly calculated whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP
13 mortgage modification;

14 c. Failing to properly supervise its agents, vendors, including Black Knight and
15 including its loss mitigation and collection personnel; foreclosure attorneys; and technical, computer and
16 engineering employees who developed, implemented, and used the internal software to determine
17 whether a borrower qualified for a HAMP mortgage modification;

18 d. Making inaccurate calculations and determinations of Plaintiff's and Class
19 Members' eligibility for a HAMP mortgage modification;

20 e. Not conducting sufficient testing to determine whether its internal software
21 program was correctly calculating whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP mortgage modification;

22 f. Failing to give HAMP mortgage modifications and HARP relief and National
23 Mortgage Settlement Agreement of 2012 modifications and other foreclosure alternatives to qualified
24 borrowers; and
25
26
27
28

1 g. Conspiring to conceal and concealing the error in its internal software program
2 from approximately 2013 through October 2018.

3 117. Wells Fargo knowingly and willfully concealed the computer software errors from
4 Plaintiff and Class Members.

5 118. Wells Fargo actually knew during 2013 through 2018 that borrowers such as Plaintiff and
6 Class Members would suffer injury as a result of Wells Fargo's failure to exercise reasonable care and
7 its extreme departure from reasonable care by conspiring to conceal and concealing the computer
8 calculation error from Plaintiff, Class Members and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
9 ("OCC") with regard to the overstatement of legal fees and other foreclosure costs such as late fees.
10

11 119. Wells Fargo's violations of law and contractual negligence and gross negligence were the
12 direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff and Class Members' injuries, harm and economic loss, which
13 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered and will continue to suffer.
14

15 120. As a consequence of Wells Fargo's contractual gross negligence, Plaintiff and Class
16 Members were injured in at least the following ways:

- 17 a. wrongful denial of mortgage modifications and wrongful foreclosures;
18 b. otherwise avoidable losses of homes with substantial fair market values to
19 foreclosures;
20 c. less favorable mortgage modifications;
21 d. increased fees and other costs to avoid or attempt to avoid foreclosure, including
22 loans from Plaintiff's relatives that have not been repaid;
23 e. lost equity in homes that were foreclosed on and the financial loss on average of
24 10 years of previously made mortgage payments by Plaintiff and Class Members;
25 f. loss of savings in fruitless attempts to secure mortgage modifications;
26 g. loss of opportunities to pursue other refinancing or loss mitigation strategies;
27
28

1 h. increased costs associated with lowered credit scores; and

2 i. significant stress causing physical injuries and emotional distress, especially to

3 Class Members who were disabled, retired, or senior citizens.

4 121. Plaintiff and Class Members seek recovery of their legal fees because of Wells Fargo's
5 gross negligence and extreme departure from reasonable care.

6 122. As a direct and proximate result of Wells Fargo's concealment and gross negligence,
7 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury, damage, loss, or harm, and seek punitive damages.

8
9 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
10 **Violation Of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL")**

11 (Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Nationwide Class)

12 123. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations as if fully set forth herein.

13 124. California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq., prohibits
14 "unfair competition," which includes "any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice," or
15 making deliberate misrepresentations.

16 125. A business act or practice is "unfair" when it "offends an established public policy or
17 when the practice is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to
18 consumers." *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 1169 (9th Cir. 2012).

19 126. Wells Fargo engaged in business acts and practices that are immoral, unethical,
20 oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers by, among other things:

21 a. Failing to perform mortgage servicing functions consistent with its contractual or
22 other responsibilities to Plaintiff and Class Members;

23 b. Creating, implementing, and using an internal software program and protocols
24 that were flawed and defective and incorrectly calculated whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP or
25 other mortgage modification;
26
27
28

1 c. Wells Fargo and the Board failed to properly supervise its subsidiaries, agents and
2 employees, including Black Knight and including its loss mitigation and collection personnel;
3 foreclosure attorneys; and technical, computer, and engineering employees who developed,
4 implemented, and used the internal software to determine whether a borrower qualified for a HAMP or
5 other mortgage modification, *See Exhibit 1*, pp 31-62;

6
7 d. Making inaccurate calculations and determinations of Plaintiff's and Class
8 Members' eligibility for a HAMP mortgage modification;

9 e. Not conducting sufficient testing to determine whether its internal software
10 program was correctly calculating whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP or other mortgage
11 modification;

12 f. Failing to give HAMP mortgage modifications and other foreclosure alternatives
13 to qualified borrowers; and

14 g. Knowingly and intentionally concealing the error in its internal software program
15 from approximately 2013 through October 2018 and misusing the attorney-client privilege to conceal
16 and not disclose the matter to the OCC, Plaintiff and Class Members and the public. *See Exhibit 1*,
17 p. 43.

18
19 127. The harms from these business acts and practices outweigh any potential utility.

20 128. Wells Fargo's business acts and practices offend established public policies that are
21 tethered to specific constitutional, statutory, and/or regulatory provisions, such as HAMP. The
22 Department of the Treasury states that HAMP was designed to help families who are struggling to
23 remain in their homes.

24
25 129. A business act or practice is "unlawful" when it is proscribed by some other statute,
26 regulation, or constitutional provision. "By prescribing 'any unlawful' business practice, the UCL
27 permits injured consumers to 'borrow' violations of other laws and treat them as unlawful competition
28

1 that is independently actionable.” In re Adobe Sys., Inc. Privacy Litig., 66 F. Supp. 3d 1197, 1225
2 (N.D. Cal. 2014).

3 130. Wells Fargo engaged in business acts or practices that were proscribed by law, including
4 the following: Wells Fargo engaged in unfair business practices under § 5 of the Federal Trade
5 Commission (FTC) Act; Wells Fargo violated the requirements of HAMP, such as Supplemental
6 Directive 09-01 (if a borrower meets all qualifying criteria, “the servicer **MUST** offer the modification”)
7 (emphasis in original); and Wells Fargo, as servicer, violated Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.6 and its duty owed
8 to all parties in a loan pool, including Plaintiffs and Class Members, to maximize net present value and
9 to offer the borrower a loan modification or workout plan if such modification or plan is consistent with
10 its “contractual or other authority.” Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.6 requires Wells Fargo to offer the borrower
11 a modification or workout plan because such is consistent with its servicing agreement and HAMP.
12

13 131. Uniformly telling borrowers that they were not qualified or eligible for a HAMP
14 mortgage modification when they in fact were qualified constitutes a fraudulent practice under the UCL
15 because it was likely to deceive Plaintiff and Class Members about their entitlement to a mortgage
16 modification under HAMP, Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.6 and conceal the adequacy of Wells Fargo’s
17 methods for evaluating someone’s entitlement to a modification.
18

19 132. Wells Fargo knew or had reason to know that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled
20 to a mortgage modification under HAMP and Wells Fargo acted with reckless disregard for the truth.
21 Wells Fargo had superior knowledge and exclusive control of the facts, figures, and tools to determine
22 Plaintiff and Class Members’ entitlement to modifications under HAMP and Plaintiff and Class
23 Members could not have reasonably discovered the truth without tremendous difficulty.
24

25 133. Plaintiff was notified by U.S. mail of Wells Fargo’s misrepresentations concerning his
26 entitlement to a modification and reasonably relied on those misrepresentations.
27
28

134. As a direct and proximate result of Wells Fargo's unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business acts and practices, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money or property, including through:

- a. wrongful judicial foreclosures and misconduct in pursuing them;
- b. otherwise avoidable losses of homes to foreclosure;
- c. denial of modifications and less favorable mortgage modifications;
- d. increased fees and other costs to avoid or attempt to avoid foreclosure, including loans from relatives that have not been repaid;
- e. lost equity in homes that were foreclosed on and the loss on average of 10 years of previously made mortgage payments by Plaintiff and Class Members;
- f. loss of savings in fruitless attempts to secure mortgage modifications;
- g. loss of opportunities to pursue other refinancing or loss mitigation strategies; and
- h. increased costs associated with lowered credit scores.

135. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to relief, including attorneys' fees and costs, restitution, declaratory relief, and a permanent injunction enjoining Wells Fargo from its unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair practices. Plaintiff also seeks punitive damages in addition to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under applicable law, including Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Violation Of Florida's Deceptive And Unfair Trade Practices Act

(Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Florida Subclass)

136. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations as if fully set forth herein.

137. Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, ("FDUTPA"), sections 501.201-213.

1 138. The Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, (FDUTPA), sections 501.201-
2 213, Florida statutes, prohibits unfair methods of competition, or unconscionable, deceptive, or unfair
3 acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce, § 501.202(2).

4 139. An unfair practice is one that offends established public policy and one that is immoral,
5 unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers. “*Samuels v. King Motor*
6 *Co. of Boca Raton*, 782 So.2d at 499 (quoting *Spiegel, Inc. v. Fed. Trade Comm’n*, 540 F.2d 287, 293
7 (7th Cir. 1976)); see *Millennium Communications & fulfillment, Inc. v. Office of the Attorney Gen.*, 761
8 So.2d 1256, 1263 (Fla. 3d DCA 2000) (stating that deception occurs if there is a “representation,
9 omission, or practice that is likely to mislead the consumer acting reasonably in the circumstances, to the
10 consumer’s detriment.”) (Quoting *Southwest Sunsites, Inc. v. Fed. Trade Comm’n*, 785 F.2d 1431, 1435
11 (9th Cir. 1986)).

12 140. FDUTPA allows private causes of action for both declaratory and injunctive relief and
13 for recovery of actual damages, including Plaintiff’s attorneys’ fees.

14 141. The Florida Supreme Court has held that FDUTA applies to private causes of action
15 arising from single unfair or deceptive acts in the conduct of any trade or commerce, even if it involves
16 only a single party, a single transaction, or a single contract. *Samuels*, 782 So.2d at 499. More recently,
17 Florida federal district courts have held that violations of criminal statutes may serve as a statutory
18 predicate for a per se FDUTPA violation. A violation of Florida’s unauthorized practice of law statute
19 may serve as a statutory predicate for a per se FDUTPA violation. *State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v.*
20 *Med. Serv. Ctr. of Fla., Inc.*, 103 F.Supp.3d 1343, 1354 (S.D. Fla. 2015) (“The Court finds that there is
21 no genuine issue of material fact as to whether Defendants violated the FDUTPA. Defendants engaged
22 in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of their trade and commerce by unlawfully
23 operating medical clinics, in violation of Florida law”).

1 142. When the product is rendered valueless as a result of the defect or as in the present case
2 modification denial and foreclosure against the property, then the purchase price may be the appropriate
3 measure of actual damages. *Rollins, Inc. v. Heller*, 454 So.2d 580, 585 (Fla. 3d DCA 1984).

4 143. Wells Fargo's unconscionable, unfair and deceptive practices include:
5

6 a. Failing to perform mortgage servicing functions consistent with its
7 responsibilities to Plaintiff and Class Members under the servicing agreement and mortgage;

8 b. Creating, implementing, and using an internal software program and protocols
9 that were flawed and defective and incorrectly calculated whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP
10 mortgage modification and knowingly and intentionally concealing the error in its internal software
11 program calculation of legal fees from 2013 through 2018;

12 c. Wells Fargo and its Board failed to properly supervise its agents, subsidiaries,
13 vendors and employees, including Black Knight and including its loss mitigation and collection
14 personnel; foreclosure attorneys; and technical, computer, and engineering employees who developed,
15 implemented, and used the internal software to determine whether a borrower qualified for a HAMP
16 mortgage modification;

17 d. Making inaccurate calculations and determinations of Plaintiffs and Class
18 Members' eligibility for a HAMP mortgage modification and knowingly concealing the inaccurate
19 calculations from 2013 through 2018;

20 e. Not conducting sufficient testing to determine whether its internal software
21 program was correctly calculating whether a borrower was entitled to a HAMP or other mortgage
22 modification, *See Exhibit 1*, pp. 31-62;

23 f. Failing to give HAMP mortgage modifications and other foreclosure alternatives
24 to qualified borrowers; and
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1 g. Conspiring to conceal and knowingly concealing the error in its internal software
2 program from approximately 2013 through October 2018 and misusing the attorney-client privilege to
3 conceal and not disclose the matter to the OCC, Plaintiff and Class Members and the public. *See*
4 Exhibit 1, p. 43.

5
6 144. Wells Fargo's misrepresentations and omissions were material because they were likely
7 to deceive Plaintiff and Class Members about their entitlement to a mortgage modification under HAMP
8 and the adequacy of Wells Fargo's methods for evaluating someone's entitlement to a HAMP, HARP or
9 other modification.

10 145. Wells Fargo intended to mislead Plaintiff and Class Members and induce them to rely on
11 its misrepresentations and omissions.

12 146. Wells Fargo acted intentionally or knowingly to violate Florida's Deceptive and unfair
13 Trade Practices Act, and recklessly disregarded Plaintiff and Class Members' rights by fraudulently
14 concealing and conspiring to conceal its material errors with regard to mortgage modification.

15
16 147. As a direct and proximate result of Wells Fargo's unconscionable and deceptive practices,
17 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money or property, including through:

18 a. wrongful judicial foreclosures and criminal misconduct in pursuing them (see
19 Fourth Cause of Action);

20 b. otherwise avoidable loss of homes to foreclosure with substantial fair market
21 values;

22 c. denial of modifications and less favorable mortgage modifications;

23 d. increased fees and other costs to avoid or attempt to avoid foreclosure, including
24 loans from relatives that have not been repaid;

25 e. lost equity in homes that were foreclosed on and the loss on average of 10 years
26 of previously made mortgage payments;
27
28

- f. loss of savings in fruitless attempts to secure mortgage modifications;
- g. loss of opportunities to pursue other refinancing or loss mitigation strategies; and
- h. increased costs associated with lowered credit scores.

148. Because of Wells Fargo's unconscionable and deceptive business practices, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to relief, including injunctive relief, other equitable relief, actual damages, restitution, and attorneys' fees and costs.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation Of Florida's Unauthorized Practice Of Law Statute

(Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Florida Subclass)

149. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations as if fully set forth herein.

150. All of the wrongfully denied modifications and wrongful foreclosures pursued by Wells Fargo against Plaintiff and other Class Members by Wells Fargo for property located in the State of Florida violated the statutory prohibition against the unlicensed practice of law, which is a criminal felony of the third degree violation of Florida law.

151. "Any person not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice law in this state who practices law in this state or holds himself or herself out to the public as qualified to practice law in this state, or who willfully pretends to be, or willfully takes or uses any name, title, addition, or description implying that he or she is qualified, or recognized by law as qualified, to practice law in this state, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or 775.084." Fla. Stat. Section 454.23 (2012). The statute has been held not to be unconstitutionally vague. State v. Foster, 674 So.2d 747 (Fla. 1st DCA 1996); State v. Trotter, 677 So.2d 35 (Fla. 5th DCA 1996).

152. All of the wrongful judicial foreclosure complaints filed in the State of Florida by Wells Fargo were signed and verified by Wells Fargo as "Attorney In Fact" for the mortgage owners, lenders, or investors.

1 153. Signing a judicial or court foreclosure complaint on behalf of or for another entity or
2 person or appearing as a legal representative on behalf of someone else is considered the practice of law
3 in the State of Florida. See Florida Bar v. Lister, 662 So.2d 1241 (Fla. 1995). Using a title such as
4 “lawyer,” “attorney,” “attorney at law,” “esquire,” “counselor,” or “counsel,” is also considered the
5 practice of law in the State of Florida. See Florida Bar v. Gordon, 661 So.2d 295, 296 (Fla. 1995).
6 Plaintiff alleges that using the title “Attorney in Fact,” and signing and verifying a judicial foreclosure
7 complaint on behalf of someone else is the practice of law in the State of Florida and is not permitted
8 unless the person or entity is licensed to practice law in the State of Florida.
9

10 154. A power of attorney does not confer upon Wells Fargo the authority to practice law or act
11 as an Attorney in Fact on behalf of another corporation or person, unless Wells Fargo is a licensed
12 attorney in the State of Florida or a professional corporation comprised of only licensed attorneys as
13 shareholders. Wells Fargo is not a professional corporation authorized to practice law in the State of
14 Florida and is not permitted to do so unless the person or entity is licensed to practice law in the State of
15 Florida.
16

17 155. Wells Fargo has willfully and knowingly engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by
18 signing and verifying the wrongful foreclosure complaints as “Attorney in Fact,” in all of the foreclosure
19 cases filed in the State of Florida for many years.
20

21 156. It is not known the total number of wrongful foreclosure cases filed by Wells Fargo in the
22 State of Florida between 2010 and 2018, but it is estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands and is
23 evidence of willful violation of the Florida statute.

24 157. Wells Fargo’s loan documentation employees signed all the wrongful foreclosure
25 complaints on behalf of Wells Fargo, the corporation and had attributable knowledge of the statute’s
26 prohibition via other employees in the Wells Fargo legal department.
27
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1 158. It has long been the law in Florida that a non-lawyer may not represent a corporation in
2 court and that a corporation may not appear pro se. Szteinbaum v. Kaes Invescsiones Valores, 476
3 So.2d 247 (Fla. 3d DCA 1985); Nicholson Supply Co. v. First Federal Savings & Loan Association, 184
4 So.2d 438 (Fla. 2d DCA 1966). The rationale is that a corporation is a fictitious entity. While a natural
5 person may represent himself in court, a corporation is not a natural person. It is an artificial entity
6 created by law and as such it can neither practice law nor appear or act in person. Nicholson at 440;
7 Sec. 454.18, Fla. Stat. (2007). Plaintiff alleges that under Florida law, Wells Fargo is not permitted to
8 sign, verify and file the wrongful foreclosure complaints as “Attorney in Fact.” See, e.g., Szteinbaum v.
9 Kaes Inversiones Valores, 476 So.2d 247 (Fla. 3d DCA 1985), corporation’s filing of complaint not
10 signed by an attorney constituted the unauthorized practice of law.
11

12 159. Wells Fargo employees cannot properly sign the complaints on behalf of or for Wells
13 Fargo, unless they are licensed attorneys in the State of Florida. Plaintiff alleges that Wells Fargo
14 employees have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Florida by signing the wrongful
15 foreclosure complaints on behalf of Wells Fargo Bank, the corporation.
16

17 160. Those employees, who signed the wrongful foreclosure complaints, and were not
18 licensed Florida attorneys, have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. See Angelini v. Mobile
19 Home Village, Inc., 310 So.2d 776 (Fla. 1st DCA 1975), corporate official may not sign a pleading for
20 corporation as a corporation is prohibited from the practice of law.
21

22 161. To the extent that licensed Florida attorneys of record assisted the Wells Fargo
23 employees in preparing, signing, verifying, and filing the wrongful foreclosure complaints, then the
24 attorneys will be considered to have “assisted in” the unauthorized practice of law in Florida. Under
25 Fla. Rule 4-5.5, licensed lawyers may not assist non-lawyers in the unlicensed or unauthorized practice
26 of law.
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1 162. Notwithstanding the fact that Wells Fargo engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by
2 signing and verifying all the wrongful judicial foreclosure complaints as “Attorney in Fact,” in Florida,
3 between 2010 and 2018; Wells Fargo had a duty to disclose the computer error and other related errors
4 to Plaintiff, the Class and the courts because it acted as an attorney, Attorney in Fact or officer of the
5 court in all the judicial proceedings.
6

7 163. Wells Fargo’s breach of its duty to disclose the errors to Plaintiff, the Class and the
8 courts, directly and proximately caused Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ injuries, including but not
9 limited to:

- 10 a. wrongfully denied modifications, leading to wrongful foreclosures and avoidable
11 loss of homes;
12 b. lost equity in homes that were foreclosed on and the loss on average of 10 years
13 of previously made mortgage payments;
14 c. increased costs associated with lowered credit scores and increased fees and other
15 costs to avoid or attempt to avoid foreclosure, including loans from relatives that have not been repaid.
16

17 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
18 **Breach Of Fiduciary Duty**

19 (Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Nationwide Class)

20 164. Plaintiff incorporates all allegations as if fully set forth herein.

21 165. Plaintiff and Class Members are the intended third party beneficiaries of Wells Fargo’s
22 HAMP agreement (as servicer) with the U.S. Treasury Dept., which requires it to issue a mortgage
23 modification to any borrower who met the criteria to qualify.

24 166. Under Wells Fargo’s HAMP agreement, Wells Fargo was paid Federal incentive
25 payments to review modification applications and assist and modify mortgages and, otherwise, act for
26 the benefit of the Plaintiff and Class Members, who are not signatories on the agreement but rather who
27 benefit from the agreement as beneficiaries.
28

1 167. Plaintiff and Class Members are also the intended third party beneficiaries of Wells
2 Fargo's servicing agreement with lenders and investors. Mortgage servicing functions are required and
3 mandated by Plaintiff's mortgage and note and the new owners and investors of Plaintiff's mortgage
4 have contracted with Wells Fargo as part of the securitization process to provide these services to
5 Plaintiff. Processing of mortgage modification requests are part of the loan servicing function and there
6 is privity of contract between Plaintiff via its mortgage and note and Wells Fargo via its servicing and
7 pooling agreement with the new owners and investors. Wells Fargo is paid a mortgage servicing fee,
8 collects and retains all late charges, inspection fees and legal fees it charges Plaintiff and is paid
9 incentive payments by the U.S. Treasury under HAMP to process and modify Plaintiff's mortgage.
10 Wells Fargo is entitled to keep the float on the mortgage payments. Plaintiff pays the servicer/Wells
11 Fargo on the 1st of the month but the servicer/Wells Fargo does not remit the funds to the mortgagee
12 until the 25th of the month. During the interim, Wells Fargo gets to use the funds on Plaintiff's and
13 thousands of other mortgages. Plaintiff's and Class Members' mortgages and notes address the payment
14 and collection of mortgage payments, late fees and legal fees by the servicer/Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo,
15 as servicer, is paid to process and approve Plaintiff's and Class Members' modification requests; it is not
16 paid or compensated under HAMP, if it does not approve Plaintiff's or Class Members' modifications.
17 Wells Fargo, as servicer, also owes a separate duty to Plaintiff and Class Members under agency law as
18 agent for the owners of Plaintiff's and Class Members' mortgages and notes. Wells Fargo is paid to
19 collect and receive mortgage payments, manage mortgage accounts and act as trustee of escrow
20 accounts for the payment of real estate taxes, insurance, condo association assessments and other
21 payments. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on advice and confidential guidance from Wells Fargo in
22 processing their modification applications, which included private and confidential financial Federal tax
23 returns and medical information where appropriate. The medical information submitted to Wells Fargo
24 cannot be disclosed under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Plaintiff
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1 responded to no less than 5 separate requests for documentation and many private medical questions
2 regarding his modification application, which took several months. Plaintiff's medical condition met the
3 Federal definition of a "disability" and he was a senior citizen on social security at the time of the
4 modification application.

5
6 168. Even though Plaintiff and Class Members are not signatories on the servicing agreement
7 and HAMP agreement, the agreements in combination and collectively and cumulatively considered
8 together with Plaintiff's mortgage and note, established an "implied" fiduciary relationship between
9 Plaintiff, Class Members and Wells Fargo. Also, under Plaintiff's mortgage, Wells Fargo was paid to
10 act as trustee of an escrow account established for the payment of real estate taxes, insurance, condo
11 association assessments and other payments and owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff pursuant to the
12 escrow agreement. Nonetheless, no formal contract or agreement is necessary to establish an implied
13 fiduciary relationship, which is ultimately a question of fact and cannot be resolved at the motion to
14 dismiss stage.

15
16 169. Plaintiff and Class Members were dependent on Wells Fargo with regard to their
17 modification requests. See *Brigham v. Brigham*, 11 So.3d 374, 387 (Fla. 3d DCA 2009) ("To establish a
18 fiduciary relationship, a party must allege some degree of dependency on one side and some degree of
19 undertaking on the other side to advise, counsel and protect the weaker party.") *Masztal v. The City of*
20 *Miami*, 971 So.2d 803, 809 (Fla. 3d DCA 2008) ("An implied fiduciary relationship will lie when there
21 is a degree of dependency on one side and an undertaking on the other side to protect and/or benefit the
22 dependent party.") Plaintiff and Class Members were completely reliant on Wells Fargo as servicer, to
23 timely disburse funds to the appropriate entities out of the loan's escrow account.

24
25 170. See *Capital Bank*, 644 So.2d 515 (Fla. 3d DCA 1994); see also *In re National Century*
26 *Financial Enterprises, Inc., Investment Litigation*, 604 F. Supp. 2d 1128, 1147-48 (S.D. Ohio 2009).
27 The fiduciary's role may be assumed by formal appointment, or it may arise de facto from a more
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1 informal relationship between the parties and no formal contract is necessary. For the de facto status to
2 be recognized, however, both parties must understand under the circumstances that a special trust and
3 confidence has been reposed in one by the other.

4 171. See *Capital Bank*, 644 So.2d at 520 (Fla. 3d DCA 1994) (“A fiduciary owes to its
5 beneficiary the duty to refrain from self-dealing, the duty of loyalty, the overall duty to not take unfair
6 advantage and to act in the best interest of the other party, and the duty to disclose material facts”). The
7 duty to disclose material facts is ultimately a question of fact and cannot be resolved at the motion to
8 dismiss stage. See *Sierra Equity Group, Inc. v. White Oak Equity Partners, LLC*, 650 F. Supp. 2d 1213,
9 1233 (S.D. Fla. 2009) and *Razor Capital LLC v. CMAX Finance LLC*, No. 17-80388, 2017 (WL
10 3481761 (S.D. Fla. 2017)).

11 172. Under the Wells Fargo servicing agreement, HAMP agreement and Plaintiff’s mortgage,
12 Wells Fargo owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to disclose the MSP computer
13 program errors with regard to the calculation and overstatement of legal fees and other costs with regard
14 to determining whether to issue a mortgage modification. Both Plaintiff and Wells Fargo understood
15 that under the loan servicing agreement, HAMP, and Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.6, Wells Fargo was being
16 compensated by the Federal government to act for the benefit of Plaintiff and modify its mortgage, if
17 Plaintiff met all eligibility requirements; Wells Fargo had a duty to maximize net present value in its
18 eligibility calculations and a duty to disclose the computer calculation errors, which is ultimately a
19 question of fact.

20 173. Plaintiff alleges that Wells Fargo failed to disclose similar computer calculation errors
21 and concealed and misrepresented and omitted these other errors between October 2013 and 2016, and
22 did not notify or otherwise contact Plaintiff and many Class Members because it did not want the
23 Federal Office of Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) to find out about these errors and other mortgage
24 modification deficiencies during its audit. See *Exhibit 1*, pp. 30 and 31.

1 174. Wells Fargo admitted in its SEC filings that it knew of the material legal fee calculation
2 errors during the period of October 2015 through 2018 but did not disclose and continued to foreclose
3 on homes notwithstanding the fact that the modifications were wrongfully denied because of the errors.

4 175. Under the combination of the servicing agreement and mortgage and HAMP agreement,
5 Wells Fargo had a fiduciary duty to disclose to Plaintiff and Class Members, the computer modification
6 calculation errors with regard to legal fees. Additionally, Wells Fargo also had a fiduciary duty to
7 disclose its "conflict of interest" in acting as fiduciary for both parties with regard to the modification.
8 Wells Fargo acted in a dual fiduciary capacity as Master Servicer and Securities Administrator under its
9 mortgage servicing and pooling agreement and acted as an implied fiduciary for Plaintiff. Wells Fargo
10 was required to disclose to Plaintiff, its conflict of interest in acting as an implied fiduciary for Plaintiff
11 and acting as a fiduciary for the owner of the mortgage and note and investors. Under amended Cal.
12 Civ. Code § 2923.6, Wells Fargo, as mortgage servicer, acts in the best interests of all parties to the loan
13 pool or investors. Plaintiff is a party to the loan pool via its 30 year note, which is an asset of the Trust
14 J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Trust 2006-WF1 is the owner of Plaintiff's mortgage and note.
15 Furthermore, Plaintiff is an intended third party beneficiary under Cal. Civ. Code §2923.6 and the loan
16 servicing agreement, which is ultimately a question of fact.

17 176. Wells Fargo breached all of the above fiduciary duties of disclosure to Plaintiff and Class
18 Members causing injuries to Plaintiff and Class Members, which included the denial of modifications
19 and loss of homes to foreclosure because of the wrongful modification denials.

20 177. Plaintiff and Class Members were unable to timely review and correct material
21 calculation errors because of Wells Fargo's breach of its fiduciary duty to disclose.

22 178. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied to their detriment (leading to foreclosure)
23 on Wells Fargo's wrongful HAMP modification denials caused by the computer errors in calculating
24 and estimating the legal fees and other foreclosure costs, in determining eligibility for a modification.
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179. Plaintiff and Class Members could not have discovered the material computer calculation errors by way of the normal due diligence process.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Fraudulent Concealment**

(Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Nationwide Class)

180. Under California law, the tort of deceit or fraud by concealment requires that each and all of the following elements be proved:

- a. “the defendant must have concealed or suppressed a material fact,
- b. the defendant must have been under a duty to disclose the fact to the Plaintiff,
- c. the defendant must have intentionally concealed or suppressed the fact with the intent to defraud the Plaintiff,
- d. the Plaintiff must have been unaware of the fact and would not have acted as he did if he had known of the concealed or suppressed fact, and
- e. as a result of the concealment or suppression of the fact, the Plaintiff must have sustained damage.”

Boschma v. Home Loan Center, Inc., (2011) 198 Cal.App.4th 230, 248, see
also *Mosier v. Southern California Physicians Ins. Exchange* (1995) 63
Cal.App.4th 1022, 1045.

181. There are ‘four circumstances in which nondisclosure or concealment may constitute actionable fraud: (1) when the defendant is in a fiduciary relationship with the Plaintiff; (2) when the defendant had exclusive knowledge of material facts not known to the Plaintiff; (3) when the defendant actively conceals a material fact from the Plaintiff; and (4) when the defendant makes partial representations but also suppresses some material facts... Each of the circumstances in which nondisclosure may be actionable presupposes the existence of some other relationship between the Plaintiff and defendant in which a duty to disclose can arise.

182. Such a relationship can only come into being as a result of some sort of transaction between the parties...Thus, a duty to disclose may arise from the relationship between seller and buyer, employer and prospective employee, doctor and patient, or parties entering into any kind of contractual agreement. All of these relationships are created by transactions between parties from which a duty to disclose facts material to the transaction arises under certain circumstances.” (*Limandri v. Judkins* (1997) 52 Cal.App.4th 326, 336-337.) The servicing agreement and HAMP agreement, in combination with and collectively with Plaintiff’s mortgage and note, established an “implied” fiduciary relationship between Plaintiff, Class Members and Wells Fargo.

183. A recent decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York addresses circumstances under which a defendant has a duty to disclose truthful information affirmatively, even without a special relationship such as a fiduciary relationship. See *Plumbing Supply, LLC v. Exxon Mobile Oil Corp.*, 14 CV 3674, NYLJ 1202797948513, at 1 (SDNY, Decided September 5, 2017).

184. Wells Fargo misrepresented to Plaintiff and Class Members that they did not qualify for a HAMP modification and Plaintiff and Class Members relied to their detriment on Wells Fargo’s misrepresentations; their modifications were denied and many homes lost to foreclosure.

185. Once Wells Fargo discovered the computer calculation errors and that modifications had been wrongfully denied, it knowingly concealed and continued to deny modifications and continued to foreclose on homes for 5 years (from 2013 through 2018), without notifying or contacting or disclosing the MSP material computer calculation errors to Plaintiff, the Class Members and the courts during the judicial foreclosure proceedings and before the Iowa Rico class action Settlement. Plaintiff would not have opted out of the Iowa Rico case if it had known of the concealment fraud. Instead, he would have amended the complaint.

1 186. Under New York fraud law, a duty to disclose arises and cannot be concealed or omitted
2 if, one party makes a material representation that requires additional disclosure to avoid misleading the
3 other party. A fiduciary or other special relationship is not required. See above Plumbing Supply case.

4 187. If Plaintiff had known of the concealment fraud or been notified of the material computer
5 calculation errors regarding the modification denial, it would have amended its affirmative defense and
6 restated and refiled its counterclaim regarding the denial of its modification during the Florida judicial
7 foreclosure case proceedings and refiled and replied, as an independent action its Rico claim in the
8 Florida proceedings and Iowa Rico case.

9 188. If Plaintiff had known of the concealment fraud or been notified of the material computer
10 calculation errors with regard to legal fees and other costs, Plaintiff would have compelled the servicer
11 and the owner of the note to enforce the terms of the note's due on sale clause with regard to sale of the
12 property at the association's foreclosure sale to prevent transfer of the property to the tax buyer. The
13 first mortgage lien holder and owner of the note and Wells Fargo, owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff to
14 protect its ownership interests and the interests of the noteholder in the property by redeeming the
15 property within 10 days after the Association's foreclosing sale of the property for \$17,200 on May 27,
16 2015, for non-payment of assessments.

17 189. If Plaintiff had known of the concealment fraud, it would have notified the circuit and
18 appellate courts of Wells Fargo's fraud and conflict of interest during the judicial foreclosure
19 proceedings before the circuit and appellate courts in Florida, with regard to the property and wrongful
20 modification denial. Wells Fargo acted as "attorney in fact" during the judicial foreclosure proceedings
21 and violated its duty of disclosure to Plaintiff and the Florida state courts.

22 190. Wells Fargo's concealment fraud was the direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff and
23 Class Members' injuries, including loss of homes to foreclosure.
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1 191. As a consequence of Wells Fargo's concealment fraud, Plaintiff and Class Members were
2 injured in many ways, including but not limited to:

3 a. wrongful association foreclosure and mortgage foreclosures and wrongful
4 mortgage modification denials;

5 b. lost equity in homes that were foreclosed on and the loss on average of 10 years
6 of previously made mortgage payments;

7 c. significant stress causing physical injuries and emotional distress, especially to
8 Class Members who were disabled or retired, including Plaintiff, whose medical conditions meet the
9 Federal definition of a disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
10

11 192. Plaintiff and Class Members will request an award of punitive damages at trial for Wells
12 Fargo's knowing and intentional concealment fraud with regard to the overstatement of legal fees and
13 other costs, in determining eligibility for a mortgage modification.
14

15 193. Wells Fargo discovered the computer modification software error in 2013, not 2015 and
16 deliberately did not disclose or tell Plaintiff and Class Members because it did not want the OCC to find
17 out about the error during its audit investigation of Wells Fargo.

18 194. Wells Fargo knowingly, willfully, intentionally, and continually concealed three (3)
19 material software modification calculation errors from Plaintiff and Class Members between 2013 and
20 2018 to prevent an increase of the civil monetary penalty of \$70 million dollars levied against it by the
21 OCC on May 24, 2016. This multiple year pattern of concealment is evidence of intent and shows why
22 Wells Fargo did not disclose the larger 2013 error until 2018. Wells Fargo engaged in an active and
23 willful pattern of concealment of the computer calculation errors to elude discovery by the OCC's 2011
24 audit investigation of deceptive practices, *See Exhibit 1*, p. 30, and to prevent additional monetary
25 penalties from being levied against it. In other words, its fraudulent concealment went beyond mere
26 non-disclosure and constituted active and willful concealment. Licul v. Volkswagen Group of Am., Inc.
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No. 133-61686-CTV, 2013 WL 6328734, at * 6 (S.D. Fla. Dec. 5, 2013); see also Nardone, 333 So. 2d at 39 (“generally the fraud must be of such a nature as to constitute active concealment to prevent inquiry or elude investigation or to mislead a person who could claim a cause of action”). Wells Fargo’s pattern of intentional active concealment from Plaintiff and Class Members of the MSP computer program mortgage modification errors in this case, is also demonstrated by its non-disclosure of these same errors between 2013 and 2016, in Plaintiff’s Rico Case No. 4-08-CV-507, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Iowa. Plaintiff’s Rico case (2008-2016) involved similar MSP computer errors with regard to illegal late fees charged and inspection fees for home inspections not performed. Additionally, Wells Fargo also intentionally and actively concealed these same computer modification errors from the New York Attorney General in its 2013 case against Wells Fargo to enforce the National Mortgage Settlement of 2012 and force Wells Fargo to honor its agreement to provide 4.34 billion dollars in mortgage modification relief to class Members (including Plaintiff), which it did not completely do. Until 2017, Wells Fargo had a policy allowing it to misuse the attorney-client privilege to hide and conceal documents from Plaintiff, the public, its regulators and board; it withheld board minutes and emails from Grant Thornton, its independent consultant and auditor, tasked under a consent order with evaluating Wells Fargo’s various practices and informing the compliance plan. Wells Fargo rescinded the policy only after the OCC discovered it. See Exhibit 1, p.43.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
Fraud On The Florida State And Appellate Courts
 (Brought On Behalf of Plaintiff and Florida Subclass)

195. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

196. Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.540(b) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 60(b) are virtually identical and both do not limit the power of a court to entertain and independent action to relieve a party from a judgment or to set aside a judgment for fraud upon the court.

1 197. Fed.R.Civ.P. 60(b) was the historical basis for Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.540(b) and the treatment by
2 federal courts of the Federal rule has a persuasive impact on the interpretation of the Florida rule by
3 Florida courts. *See Willis, Post-Judgment Relief Under Rule 1.38*, 40 Fla. B.J. 1042 (1966). In
4 commenting on the predecessor to Rule 1.540, Judge Willis suggested that “our Rule 1.3.8(b) is taken
5 from Rule 60(b) of the federal rules and cases digested under this rule certainly would be very
6 persuasive and perhaps controlling in a Florida court.” *Id.* at 1045.

8 198. Wells Fargo perpetuated a fraud on the Florida Court by unfairly hampering the
9 presentation of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ claims and defenses with its fraudulent concealment and
10 nondisclosure of the MSP computer modification calculation errors during the foreclosure proceedings
11 against Plaintiff and Class Members. SEE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION and SIXTH CAUSE OF
12 ACTION.

13 199. Additionally, Wells Fargo also perpetuated a fraud, on the Florida Court during Plaintiff
14 and Class Members’ foreclosure proceedings when it fraudulently violated the unauthorized practice of
15 law; it verified all the Florida judicial foreclosure complaints as Attorney-in-Fact for the owner/investor
16 of the mortgages, which is a criminal violation of Fla. Stat. Section 454.23 (2012).

17 200. Once Wells Fargo discovered the computer calculation errors in 2013 and that
18 modifications had been wrongfully denied, it knowingly concealed and continued to deny modifications
19 and continued to foreclose on homes for years (from 2013 through 2018), without notifying or
20 contacting or disclosing the MSP material computer calculation errors to Plaintiff, the Class Members
21 and the courts during the Florida judicial foreclosure proceedings.

22 201. Wells Fargo’s concealment fraud and non-disclosure hampered the presentation of
23 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ claims and defenses because Plaintiffs would have pursued the denial of
24 their modification requests as independent actions, if they had known about the concealment fraud.
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1 Perrine v. Henderson, 85 So.3d 1210, 1211-22 (Fla. 5th DCA 2012) quoting Cox v. Burke, 706 So.2nd
2 43, 46 (Fla. 5th DCA 1988).

3 202. All of the judicial foreclosure complaints verified by Wells Fargo as Attorney-in-Fact in
4 the State of Florida are not allowed unless the person or entity is licensed to practice law in the State of
5 Florida.

6 203. The willful and knowing unauthorized practice of law by Wells Fargo before the Florida
7 State and Appellate Courts is a felony of the third degree and fraud upon the Florida Courts.

8 204. When Wells Fargo, the corporation willfully and knowingly verified the foreclosure
9 complaint in Plaintiff's foreclosure case #2015-CA-01942, Florida's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court,
10 Civil Division, it engaged in fraud on the Florida Court.

11 205. When Wells Fargo's loan documentation employee verified Plaintiff's foreclosure case
12 complaint as Attorney-in-Fact, they engaged in fraud on the Florida Court because they are not licensed
13 Florida attorneys.

14 206. The licensed Florida attorneys of record, who assisted the Wells Fargo employees in
15 verifying Plaintiff's judicial foreclosure complaint, have engaged in fraud on the Florida Court. Under
16 Fla. Rule 4-55, licensed Florida lawyers may not assist non-lawyers in the unlicensed or unauthorized
17 practice of law.

18 207. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has set forth five elements of
19 fraud upon the court which consist of conduct: "1. On the part of an officer of the court; 2. That is
20 directed to the 'judicial machinery itself;' 3. That is intentionally false, willfully blind to the truth, or is
21 in reckless disregard for the truth; 4. That is a positive averment or is concealment when one is under a
22 duty to disclose; 5. That deceives the court." Demjanjuk v. Pegtrovsky, 10 .3d 338, 348 (6th Cir. 1993).

23 208. Other United States Court of Appeals, expressly require that fraud upon the court must
24 involve an officer of the court and the Ninth Circuit notes that fraud upon the court occurs when an
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1 officer of the court perpetrates fraud affecting the ability of the court to impartially judge a case.
2 Pomphrey v. Thompson Tool Co., 62 F.3d 1128, 1130 (9th Cir. 1995).

3 209. The licensed Florida attorneys of record in Plaintiff's Florida foreclosure case who
4 assisted Wells Fargo employees in verifying the foreclosure complaint as Attorney-in-Fact are
5 implicated as officers of the court in the unauthorized practice of Florida law and this will constitute
6 fraud upon the court, Rozier v. Ford Motor Co., 573 F.2d 1332, 1338 (5th Cir. 1978).

8 210. Notwithstanding its unauthorized practice of law, Wells Fargo had a duty to disclose the
9 MSP computer calculation errors to the Florida court, when it acted as Attorney-in-Fact or officer of the
10 court in Plaintiff's foreclosure case. Wells Fargo had a policy allowing it and its licensed Florida
11 foreclosure attorneys to misuse the attorney-client privilege to hide, conceal and not disclose the MSP
12 computer calculation errors from the OCC, Plaintiff, Class Members and ultimately the Florida Courts.
13 The policy was rescinded by Wells Fargo in 2017. *See*, Exhibit 1, p. 43, this rescission of the policy
14 constitutes a voluntary waiver of the attorney-client privilege by Wells Fargo with regard to the relevant
15 matters at issue, including any internal investigations related to the MSP computer calculation errors and
16 the unauthorized practice of law. Wells Fargo risks criminal prosecution if it does not come clean and
17 voluntarily waive the attorney-client privilege as to any internal investigations into the computer
18 calculation errors, unauthorized practice of law or unauthorized opening of bank accounts. *See* Exhibit
19 2, pp 4-8. It is not clear whether the Federal criminal investigation of Wells Fargo looked into the MSP
20 computer calculation errors and unauthorized practice of law. *See* Exhibit 2.

23 211. Wells Fargo as Attorney-in-Fact and officer of the court and as a party litigant had a duty
24 of full disclosure and honesty with the Florida State and Appellate courts. *See* Model Rule of
25 Professional Conduct r.3.3 (AM BAR ASSN'N 1983).

1 212. When an officer of the court (Wells Fargo) neglects its duty to disclose and obtains a
2 fraudulent judgment, the judgment may be attacked and subsequently overturned as fraud on the court.
3 See H. K. Porter Co. v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., 536 F. 2d 1115, 1119 (6th Cir. 1976).

4 213. If there had been disclosure and no fraud on the Florida court, Plaintiff would have
5 pursued the denials of all mortgage modification requests (HAMP, HARP and the National Mortgage
6 Settlement Agreement of 2012), as independent actions.

7 214. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(d)(3), Plaintiff requests that the foreclosure judgment
8 obtained by Wells Fargo and entered on March 21, 2017 in case number 2015-CA-01942, Florida's
9 Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court, Civil Division, be reopened and overturned and vacated because it
10 was procured by fraud upon the court.
11

12 **EIGHT CAUSE OF ACTION**
13 **Concealment Fraud And The California and Iowa Federal Courts**

14 (Brought On Behalf Of Plaintiff and Nationwide Subclass)

15 215. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

16 216. Wells Fargo engaged in a pattern of concealment fraud and racketeering offenses, as
17 evidenced by its concealment fraud in Plaintiff's Rico Case No. 4-08-CV-507, in the U.S. District Court,
18 Southern District of Iowa, a case initially commenced in California.

19 217. Plaintiff's Rico case involved MSP computer calculation errors by Wells Fargo
20 pertaining to late fees and home inspection fees illegally charged and this case involves the same or
21 substantially similar MSP computer calculation errors by Wells Fargo.

22 218. When Wells Fargo discovered the current mortgage modification MSP computer
23 calculation errors with regard to legal fees, it owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff and the California and
24 Iowa Federal Courts to disclose it in Plaintiff's Rico case rather than conceal it because Wells Fargo
25 acted as a fiduciary with regard to Plaintiff's modification requests. See Fifth and Sixth Causes of
26 Action.
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219. Wells Fargo breached its duty of disclosure in Plaintiff's Rico case and this constitutes concealment fraud on Plaintiff and the California and Iowa Federal courts and is evidence of a pattern of such fraudulent and intentional offenses and misuse of the attorney-client privilege. See Seventh Cause of Action and Exhibit 1, p.43.

220. But for the concealment fraud upon Plaintiff and the California and Iowa Federal courts, Plaintiff and other Class Members would not have opted out of the court settlement agreement on February 17, 2016 and would have pursued their Rico complaint.

221. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(d)(3), Plaintiff requests that the opt outs be rescinded and vacated with respect to Plaintiff and all Class Members who opted out of the settlement. There were 219 Class Members who opted out of the settlement agreement of February 17, 2016.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF/FIRST THROUGH EIGHT CAUSES OF ACTION

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all Class and SubClass Members, requests judgment be entered against Defendant and that the Court grant the following:

a. An order determining that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiff is a proper class representative, that Plaintiff's soon to be retained attorneys, be appointed class counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and that the class notice be promptly issued;

b. Appropriate declaratory relief against Defendant;

c. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against Defendant;

d. An award of all applicable damages; including compensatory, treble and punitive damages and the payment of restitution for the unauthorized practice of Florida law;

e. An award of reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and

1 f. Any and all relief to which Plaintiff and the Class may be entitled, including
2 disgorgement of Defendant's mortgage servicer fees and revenue because of its various conflicts or
3 interest and for breach of its implied fiduciary duty.

4 g. Judgment against Defendant for Plaintiff and Class Members' asserted causes of
5 action, including an order and judgment under F.R.C.P. (60)(d)(3) vacating the judgment of foreclosure
6 entered on March 21, 2017, in Florida's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court, Civil Division, Case # 2015-
7 CA-019042, because it was procured by fraud upon the court;

8 h. An order pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P.60(d)(3), recinding and vacating Plaintiff's and
9 SubClass Members' opt outs of the RICO settlement agreement of February 17, 2016 because of
10 Defendants' concealment fraud on Plaintiff and the California and Iowa Federal Courts.
11

12 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
13 **Revival of Plaintiff's And SubClass Members' Rico Complaint**

14 (Brought On Behalf Of Plaintiff and Nationwide Subclass)

15 222. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

16 223. If Wells Fargo had disclosed and not concealed the MSP computer calculation errors
17 regarding legal fees in 2013 and 2015, Plaintiff and Opt Out SubClass Members would have pursued
18 their initial RICO complaint regarding inspection fees. Therefore, Plaintiff and Opt Out SubClass
19 Members are hereby reviving and refileing their RICO complaint regarding inspection fees.
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21 224. Wells Fargo finally disclosed in late 2018 the MSP computer calculation errors with
22 regard to legal fees and Plaintiff's modification request and Plaintiff discovered the current RICO
23 related injury at that point in time. Most Federal Courts apply only the injury discovery rule with regard
24 to the 4 year RICO statute of limitations, which has not run here.

25 225. Additionally, Wells Fargo's MSP computer calculation errors disclosed with regard to
26 legal fees and late fees are the same or substantially the same as the MSP computer calculation errors
27 with regard to fraudulent inspection fees and late fees that were pending in Plaintiff's RICO Case No. 4-
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1 08-CV-507, in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa, at the time of the Feb. 17, 2016
2 settlement agreement and opt out by Plaintiff and other Class Members.

3 226. Plaintiff's newly discovered RICO injury pertaining to the MSP computer calculation
4 errors related to its modification request and legal fees is also from the same pattern of RICO
5 racketeering conduct by Wells Fargo.
6

7 227. Plaintiff's MSP computer calculation error regarding legal fees and its modification
8 request is a late developing and newly discovered RICO injury that could not have been proven during
9 Plaintiff's initial RICO litigation because of the concealment fraud by Wells Fargo. *See* SIXTH CAUSE
10 OF ACTION.

11 228. Plaintiff has incorporated and included the newly discovered RICO injury pertaining to
12 the MSP computer calculation errors regarding legal fees into the following revived RICO complaint
13 that is being refiled because of concealment fraud on Plaintiff and the California and Iowa Federal
14 courts. *See* EIGHT CAUSE OF ACTION.
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16 229. This case seeks to put an end to the equivalent of price-gouging by Wells Fargo & Co.
17 and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo" or "Defendants") at the expense of vulnerable homeowners.
18 Specifically, as set forth more fully below, Wells Fargo engaged in a fraudulent scheme in violation of
19 federal and state law, assisted by a nationwide web of outside vendors who acted in concert with
20 Defendants to perpetrate the scheme, to exact improper inspection fees and late charges from
21 homeowners who had fallen into arrears on their mortgages and to improperly and intentionally deny
22 mortgage modification requests because of a faulty computer program calculation of legal fees.
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24 230. These additional costs, which this action seeks to recover, placed Plaintiff and other
25 borrowers whose mortgages were serviced by Wells Fargo in difficult financial straits, putting their
26 homes in jeopardy and, in some instances, resulting in bankruptcy. *See e.g. In re Dorothy Chase*
27 *Stewart*, No. 07-11113, 2008 WL 2676961 (Bkrcty. E.D. La. July 9, 2008) ("*Stewart*") (stating that
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1 Wells Fargo's bogus fees and other misconduct forced homeowner into bankruptcy). Plaintiff now
2 seeks return of these inflated bogus inspection costs and late fees and seeks approval of its illegally
3 denied mortgage modification request.

4 231. In particular, Wells Fargo utilized a computer system to automatically assess fees for late
5 payments and property inspections without regard to the terms of the borrowers' mortgage loans or the
6 relevant circumstances. Instead of being based upon reasonable parameters, the computer system was
7 programmed to assess as many charges as possible and to pay first all outstanding fees and costs before
8 satisfying interest and principal. Further, Wells Fargo concealed the nature of the fees being assessed on
9 monthly statements mailed to Plaintiff and Class Members by describing them simply as "other"
10 charges. In this matter, Wells Fargo victimized and further increased the indebtedness of persons who
11 were already in danger of losing their homes to foreclosures. Well Fargo's scheme has been ongoing for
12 years and was in existence when Plaintiff and Class Members obtained their mortgages.

13 232. Wells Fargo's misconduct has not gone unnoticed. The United States Bankruptcy Court
14 for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued an opinion sanctioning Wells Fargo for its unlawful conduct
15 at issue here. *See In re Dorothy Chase Steward*, No. 07-11113, 2008 WL 2676961 (Bkrtcy. E.D. La.
16 July 9, 2008) ("*Stewart*").

17 233. In *Stewart*, the court found that Wells Fargo's unlawful, automated practice of charging
18 fees to distressed borrowers had resulted in the assessment of multiple late fees for a single missed
19 payment as well as assessment of an inspection fee on average once every month and a half over a seven
20 year period, deepening the debtor's default although the borrower's property always had been occupied
21 and in good condition. Moreover, the inspections generated by Wells Fargo's automated system were
22 never read or reviewed by any Wells Fargo employee, further demonstrating that the inspections were
23 simply a profit-generated mechanism and were not necessary to safeguard the lender's interests.

1 234. As held by the Honorable Elizabeth W. Magner in the Wells Fargo foreclosure matter at
2 issue in *Stewart*:

3 The Court concludes ... that Wells Fargo has a corporate practice that fails to notify
4 borrowers that fees, costs, or charges are being assessed against their accounts.

5 Wells Fargo's [conduct is] abusive behavior ... in particular, the abusive imposition
6 of unwarranted fees and charges (late fees and inspection costs).

7 *Id.* at 342.

8 235. In addition, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrator Oversight and the
9 Courts convened a hearing to consider allegations that mortgage lenders and mortgage servicing
10 companies, including Wells Fargo have deepened the foreclosure crisis and improperly used the
11 bankruptcy system to collect unwarranted and unreasonable fees. In his opening statement, Senator
12 Charles E. Schumer aptly observed that, as a result of these unlawful practices, vulnerable homeowners
13 trying desperately to stay afloat are instead suffering a "death by a thousand fees."

14 236. Wells Fargo has profited enormously from this fraudulent scheme. As the *Stewart* court
15 observed, Wells Fargo's assessment of late and inspection fees on home mortgage loans it services
16 generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Wells Fargo.

17 237. Plaintiffs have brought this action to put an end to Wells Fargo's scheme and to recover
18 the improper, unwarranted and unreasonable fees charged to and paid by Plaintiff and Class Members.

19 238. As alleged below in detail Wells Fargo's misconduct violated the Racketeer Influenced
20 and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"), 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961, *et seq* and California's state consumer
21 protection laws under the California Business & Professions Code, §§ 17200, *et seq*.

22 239. This Court has jurisdiction over the RICO matter of this action pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§
23 1961, 1962 and 1964, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332 and 1367, and 15 U.S.C. § 15. This Court has personal
24 jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1965(b) and (d). Diversity of jurisdiction is also
25 conferred over this class action pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"). It is
26 appropriate to apply the California UCL to protect a nationwide class because the wrongdoing alleged
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1 herein occurred in significant part in California, and Wells Fargo has its principal place of business
2 within the state of California and does business in all 50 states.

3 240. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1965(a), 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), 15
4 U.S.C. § 22, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Wells Fargo, is found, does business and transacts business
5 within this district, and Wells Fargo conducts the interstate trade and commerce described below in
6 substantial part within this district. Additionally, other relevant or related class action matters are
7 pending in this district. *See* Case No. 3:318-CV-07354-WHA.

9 241. During all or part of the period in which the events described in this Complaint occurred,
10 Wells Fargo and its vendors participated in a scheme to defraud Plaintiff and other Members of the
11 Class in a continuous uninterrupted flow of interstate commerce.

12 242. The activities of Wells Fargo and its vendors were within the flow of, and had a
13 substantial effect on, interstate commerce.

14 243. Plaintiff, Kurt Hudson, is a current resident of Illinois, who owned a retirement home and
15 resided in Florida during the relevant time period.

17 244. Defendant Wells Fargo & Co. is a diversified financial services company headquartered
18 in San Francisco, California that provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage banking and
19 consumer finance through banking stores, the internet and other distribution channels to customers,
20 businesses and other institutions in all 50 states and in other countries. Wells Fargo & Co. is the parent
21 corporation of Defendant Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Wells Fargo & Co. exercises specific and financial
22 control over the operations of Defendant Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dictates the policies and practices of
23 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., exercises power and control over the specific activities upon which the claims
24 herein are based, and is the ultimate recipient of the ill-gotten gains described herein. Wells Fargo &
25 Co. represents on its website at http://www.wellsfargo.com/_jumpmortgageprinciples that it controls and
26 sets the standard for its loan servicing business stating that:
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1 Wells Fargo & Company Responsible Servicing Principles for U.S. Residential
2 Real Estate Lending...Wells Fargo's vision to satisfy all our customers' financial
needs...Similarly, we have long adhered to [] responsible servicing practices...

3 245. Defendant Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., is a subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Co. Wells Fargo
4 Bank, N.A. is a national association with corporate offices in California. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
5 conducts mortgage servicing operations in all 50 states. During the Class Period, the Plaintiff's
6 mortgages were serviced by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. but Wells Fargo & Company controlled and set the
7 standards for the loan servicing business (per its website).
8

9 246. Every home mortgage contains provisions specifying when payments are due and when
10 they are considered late, and providing that only reasonable fees may be assessed if payments are not
11 timely.

12 247. As set forth in more detail below, the Plaintiff's mortgage payments were due the first of
13 each month and were considered late if they were not received by Wells Fargo by the end of fifteen
14 calendar days after the date they were due. In the event of a late payment, the Plaintiff's note provided
15 that a single late charge in the amount of 5% of the overdue payment would be assessed. The Plaintiff's
16 mortgage further permitted Wells Fargo or its agents to do and pay for whatever is reasonable or
17 appropriate to protect the Lender's interest in the Property. Upon information and belief, in these
18 respects, Plaintiff's note was substantially identical to the note of the debtor in the *Stewart* case.
19

20 248. The vast majority of borrowers make their monthly mortgage payments to mortgage
21 servicing companies such as Wells Fargo rather than their original lender or the current holder of the
22 mortgage note. In this case, Wells Fargo was also the original lender. Wells Fargo services 10.3 million
23 residential mortgage customers or 1 out of 7 mortgages in America, making it one of the largest home
24 mortgage services in the United States.
25

26 249. As part of its mortgage servicing operations, Wells Fargo collects monthly payments
27 from borrowers consisting of principal and interest, taxes and insurance, and other fees and charges that
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1 may have been assessed and disburses these payments to the appropriate parties such as lenders,
2 investors, taxing authorities, insurers, and other relevant persons and has an implied fiduciary
3 relationship with Plaintiff. *See* FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION.

4 250. Wells Fargo earns revenue from mortgage loan servicing in three ways. First, Wells
5 Fargo receives a fixed fee for each loan which is determined by the servicing agreements between Wells
6 Fargo and the investors or note holders. Second, Wells Fargo earns “float” income from accrued interest
7 between when mortgagors pay and when those funds are remitted to lenders, investors, taxing
8 authorities, insurers, and other relevant parties. Third, Wells Fargo retains all, or part, of certain fees
9 such as late charges paid by mortgagors.
10

11 251. Because Wells Fargo earns “float” income on funds held and retains all or part of certain
12 fees that borrowers must pay, Wells Fargo has an incentive to impose additional fees on Plaintiff; Wells
13 Fargo has a conflict of interest in this regard.
14

15 252. Since at least 2001, Wells Fargo has managed and administered its residential mortgage
16 servicing tasks through the use of general computer software packages with little or no human
17 intervention.
18

19 253. Entries on home loan accounts serviced by Wells Fargo are tracked with a licensed
20 computer software platform known as Fidelity Mortgage Servicing Package (also known as “Fidelity
21 MSP”). When Wells Fargo receives a payment for a mortgage loan account from a borrower, that
22 payment is entered into the Fidelity MSP software and the payment is deposited. Fidelity MSP then
23 applies the payment to the borrower’s account.

24 254. Fidelity MSP will apply computer logic to certain events, triggering automatic action on
25 the loan file. More particularly, guidelines for the management of loans serviced by Wells Fargo - e.g.,
26 when late fees are due - are imported into Fidelity MSP’s internal logic and automatically applied. Other
27 charges and fees, such as fees for property inspections, are assessed against the account by virtue of
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1 “wrap around” software packages maintained by Wells Fargo. These software packages interface with
2 Fidelity MSP and also implement decisions on the loan file based on internal computer logic.

3 255. If a borrower is late making a payment, Wells Fargo's computer system will
4 automatically order a property inspection and charge the borrower's account for this inspection after the
5 loan has been in default for a certain number of days regardless of whether there is reasonable need for
6 an inspection. In most cases, the computer system will automatically recommend a property inspection if
7 the borrower has been in default for between 20 to 45 days.

9 256. Wells Fargo's computer system automatically generates work orders for property
10 inspections without human intervention. No person or employee of Wells Fargo is involved in the
11 determination of whether a property inspection is reasonably necessary to protect the lender's interest in
12 the property.

13 257. The Fidelity MSP system transmits property inspection work orders to one of at least
14 three approved vendors with which Wells Fargo has an agreement. These vendors include First
15 American Real Estate Information Services, Inc, Fidelity National Financial, Inc., and Mortgage
16 Contracting Services, LLC. Additionally, Black Knight, Inc. is Wells Fargo's vendor in Jacksonville,
17 FL., who provided the MSP computer software for mortgage modifications. The software overstated
18 legal fees in calculating net present value and denied mortgage modifications that should not have been
19 denied resulting in foreclosures. Wells Fargo concealed the miscalculations for 5 years after discovery
20 (from 2013 until 2018). The Black Knight, Inc. MSP computer software for mortgage modification
21 operates the same way as the Fidelity MSP system for property inspections and late fees.

22 258. Once the approved vendor received the computer generated work order, the inspection is
23 performed and the cost is charged to the borrower's account.
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1 259. The vendor uploads a finished property inspection report directly into Wells Fargo's
2 computer mainframe. Therefore, the computer system, rather than any person, checks the condition of
3 the property and alerts Wells Fargo if a property is at risk.

4 260. After the first property inspection is "triggered" by a default, the Wells Fargo computer
5 system will continue to order property inspections every 20 to 45 days until the borrower cures the
6 default. For example, if a borrower misses one month's periodic payment, but continues to consistently
7 make monthly periodic payments thereafter, he or she is considered by Wells Fargo to be in default on
8 the loan until the initial default is cured. Therefore, although a borrower continues to make regular
9 periodic payments after having only missed one month's payment, the Wells Fargo computer system
10 will continue to automatically generate work orders for property inspections until the initial default is
11 cured.
12

13 261. Further, because the property inspections are ordered based on a computer program rather
14 than human decision-making, property inspections may be performed on a borrower's property
15 regardless of the fact that the property has already been inspected numerous times and was previously
16 deemed occupied, well-maintained and in good condition.
17

18 262. Wells Fargo's practices with respect to property inspections are in stark contrast to the
19 Federal Housing Administration's guidelines for property inspections on homes that are federally
20 insured. FHA guidelines provide that a mortgage servicer should perform and can be reimbursed for one
21 (1) initial property inspection that should be conducted if a mortgagor's payment is not received within
22 45 days of the due date and efforts to reach the borrower by telephone are unsuccessful. If the initial
23 property inspection reveals that the property is occupied or if occupancy is confirmed through another
24 method (i.e., the borrower makes a payment or contact is made by telephone), FHA guidelines state that
25 the mortgage servicer will not be reimbursed for any additional inspections and additional inspections
26 are not required. Wells Fargo, in contrast, allows property inspections to be conducted every 20 to 45
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1 days until a borrower cures a default regardless of whether the previous inspection revealed that the
2 house was occupied and well maintained, regardless of whether Wells Fargo has made contact with the
3 borrower through telephone or other means, and regardless of whether the borrower continues to make
4 payments,

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6 263. Wells Fargo regularly conducted its mortgage servicing operations by designing,
7 operating and managing the Fidelity MSP computer software to intentionally charge borrowers
8 unreasonable, improper and unlawful fees and to intentionally miscalculate net present value and deny
9 mortgage modifications.

10 264. The Fidelity MSP system was designed and operated in a centralized fashion to defraud
11 thousands of borrowers that had their mortgages serviced by Wells Fargo.

12
13 265. As the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana held in
14 Stewart, Wells Fargo's practice of using computer software to automatically trigger property inspections
15 once a borrower is a certain number of days in default - and to continuously order those inspections
16 thereafter until the default is cured - is neither reasonable nor appropriate as this practice is not designed
17 to protect the lender's interest in the property. Rather, these automatic inspections are actually conducted
18 to generate additional fees and thereby create more "float" income, boosting Wells Fargo's bottom line.

19 266. That these computer-generated inspections are unreasonable, confer no benefit on the
20 lender, and serve no discernible purpose other than to generate revenue for Wells Fargo is further
21 evidenced by the limited nature of the inspections themselves. The property inspections ordered by the
22 Wells Fargo computer system are mere "drive-by" inspections, i.e., the inspector "drives by" the
23 property ostensibly to assess whether the house is occupied, being maintained, and has not been
24 damaged - a practice that provides little, if any, real opportunity to determine whether the lender's
25 interest in the property is at risk. Indeed, Wells Fargo personnel do not read the inspection reports.
26 Rather, electronic files of property inspections are stored in the Property Management Department of
27
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1 Wells Fargo but are never read by anyone at Wells Fargo. As a result, the observations contained in the
2 initial inspection have absolutely no bearing on whether another inspection will be ordered in 20 or 45
3 days. Also, Plaintiff's property was a condo located in a 10 story secure building containing 98 other
4 units. A drive by cannot determine if the property is occupied or at risk.

5
6 267. As part of its scheme to generate fees, Wells Fargo repeatedly sent to Plaintiff and Class
7 Members materially false and misleading agreements, contracts and monthly mortgage statements by
8 mail and wire. Wells Fargo's scheme was also designed to conceal its existence. Specifically, Wells
9 Fargo conceals the nature of the improper and unlawful inspection fees from borrowers by listing them
10 on the borrower's statement only as "other charges." Wells Fargo also concealed the computer
11 miscalculations of legal fees regarding Plaintiff's mortgage modification for 5 years.

12
13 **The Named Plaintiff Has Been Victimized by Wells Fargo's Scheme**

14 268. On August 31, 2005, the Plaintiff purchased a retirement condo located in Hillsboro
15 Beach, Florida, and entered into a mortgage agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to borrow money
16 for the purchase of the home.

17 269. The Plaintiff's mortgage agreement with Wells Fargo permits Wells Fargo or its agents to
18 do and pay for whatever is reasonable or appropriate to protect the Lender's interest in the Property.

19 270. Plaintiff's mortgage loan was serviced by Defendant Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. through is
20 mortgage servicing division.

21
22 271. Each month the Plaintiff received a monthly mortgage statement through the U.S. mail
23 reflecting the amount of the current payment due and the amount of any payment remitted by the
24 Plaintiff and received by Wells Fargo since the prior month's statement.

25 272. Over the life of the loan, the Plaintiff occasionally faced difficulty making timely
26 payments on his loan. During these times, the Plaintiff continued to consistently make monthly
27 payments in an effort to cure his default, yet the monthly statements received by the Plaintiff after
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1 missing a payment reflected additional amounts owed in fees that were unlawfully assessed by Wells
2 Fargo pursuant to the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

3 273. In this regard, the Plaintiff was charged fees for a property inspection when his loan was
4 past due, but Wells Fargo continued to order property inspections on his home in the months thereafter
5 even though the Plaintiff continued to make payments every month and continuously occupied the
6 home.
7

8 274. Specifically, in 2013, 2014 and 2015, Plaintiff was unable to pay his monthly periodic
9 payment. The Plaintiff eventually made the payments but Wells Fargo charged the Plaintiff for a
10 property inspection fee. Thereafter, Wells Fargo continued to charge the Plaintiff for property
11 inspections even though he continued to make payment. The Plaintiff was charged a property inspection
12 fee of \$15.00 for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 as follows:
13

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
January 29, 2013	May 6, 2014	January 6, 2015
February 15, 2013	June 9, 2014	January 21, 2015
June 10, 2013	August 21, 2014	February 6, 2015
July 9, 2013	October 6, 2014	May 8, 2015
August 9, 2013	November 7, 2014	June 30, 2015
August 15, 2013	December 9, 2014	July 10, 2015
August 15, 2013	December 9, 2014	August 11, 2015
		August 25, 2015
		September 23, 2015
		October 26, 2015
		December 21, 2015
		December 28, 2015

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22 275. Since the Plaintiff continued to make monthly payments even when he fell behind and
23 continuously occupied the home, these inspections were not necessary to protect the lender's interest in
24 the property and were merely conducted to generate additional fees and more float income for Wells
25 Fargo.
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276. In addition, after the Plaintiff missed payments on his mortgage he was also continuously charged excessive late fees in the months following the missed payment regardless of the fact that the Plaintiff continued to make payments every month after the missed payment.

277. The Plaintiff's payment history reflects the assessment of wrongfully charged late fees, which are too numerous to list herein and wrongfully charged inspection fees for the years prior to 2013.

RICO ALLEGATIONS

THE ENTERPRISE

278. Defendants are all “persons” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3).

279. Based upon Plaintiffs' current knowledge, the following persons constitute a group of individuals associated in fact that will be referred to herein as the "Wells Fargo Enterprise": (1) Wells Fargo, and (2) vendors, including First American Real Estate Information Services, Inc., Fidelity National Financial, Inc., and Mortgage Contracting Services, LLC, which conducted the property inspections billed to Plaintiff and Class Members complained of herein and Black Knight, Inc., Wells Fargo's mortgage servicing vendor in Jacksonville, Florida who provided the computer software for mortgage modifications.

280. The Wells Fargo Enterprise is an ongoing organization that engages in, and whose activities affect, interstate commerce.

281. The Members of the Wells Fargo Enterprise function as a continuing unit and share the common purpose of maximizing their profits by charging Plaintiff and Class Members improper fees and illegally denying mortgage modifications via MSP computer miscalculations of legal fees and net present value.

282. The Wells Fargo Enterprise has a systematic linkage because there are contractual relationships, agreements, financial ties, and coordination of activities between Defendant Wells Fargo and the vendors that perform property inspections. The Fidelity MSP computer system is a common

1 communication network by which Wells Fargo and these vendors share information. This common
2 communication network allowed Defendant to charge Plaintiff and Class Members improper inspection
3 fees and to exchange the resulting profits, including fees and profits from illegally denied mortgage
4 modifications and computer miscalculations of legal fees and net present value.

5
6 283. While all participate in and are Members and part of the Wells Fargo Enterprise, they
7 also have an existence separate and distinct from the enterprise.

8 284. They control, operate, and direct the affairs of the Wells Fargo Enterprise by, among
9 other things, programming their computer system to automatically generate work orders for improper
10 property inspections that instruct vendors to conduct inspections; sending out vendors to inspect the
11 property; arranging for vendors to upload completed electronic reports of the property inspections
12 directly into the automated system; assessing fees to borrowers for property inspections on monthly
13 mortgage statements; concealing the nature of the property inspection fees on monthly mortgage
14 statements; collecting payments from borrowers that include inspection fees; and paying vendors for
15 each property inspection completed using funds received from borrowers; denied mortgage
16 modifications via MSP computer miscalculations of net present value.

17
18 285. The Wells Fargo Enterprise has an ascertainable structure separate and apart from the
19 pattern of racketeering activity in which they all engage.

20 **PREDICATE ACTS**

21
22 286. Section, § 1961(1) of RICO provides that “racketeering activity” includes any act
23 indictable under 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (relating to mail fraud) and 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (relating to wire fraud)
24 and Fla. Stat. Section 454.23 (2012) regarding the unauthorized practice of Florida law, a felony of the
25 third degree. As set forth below, Defendants have engaged and continued to engage in conduct violating
26 each of these laws to effectuate their scheme.

27 **VIOLATIONS OF 18 U.S.C. § 1341 AND 18 U.S.C. § 1343**

1 287. For the purpose of executing and/or attempting to execute the above described scheme to
2 defraud or obtain money by means of false pretenses, representations or promises, Defendants, in
3 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341, placed in post offices and/or in authorized repositories matter and things
4 to be sent or delivered by the Postal Service, caused matter and things to be delivered by commercial
5 interstate carriers, and received matter and things from the Postal Service or commercial interstate
6 carriers, including but not limited to agreements, monthly mortgage statements, correspondence, checks,
7 inspection reports, appraisals and mortgage modification denial letters.
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9 288. For the purpose of executing and/or attempting to execute the above described scheme to
10 defraud or obtain money by means of false pretenses, representations or promises, the Defendants, in
11 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, transmitted and received by wire, matter and things, including but not
12 limited to agreements, monthly mortgage statements, correspondence, wire transfers, and inspection
13 reports, appraisals and made or caused to be made false statements over the telephone, facsimile,
14 electronic mail, and internet, including falsely denying mortgage modification requests.
15

16 289. The matter and things sent by Defendants via the Postal Service, commercial carrier,
17 wire, or other interstate electronic media included, inter alia: agreements, monthly mortgage statements,
18 correspondence, payments and inspection reports, appraisals and modification denial letters and
19 correspondence regarding the unauthorized practice of law in Florida foreclosure case.
20

21 290. Other matter and things sent through or received via the Postal Service commercial
22 carrier, wire, or other interstate electronic media by Defendants included information or communications
23 in furtherance of or necessary to effectuate the scheme.

24 291. The monthly mortgage statement received by Plaintiffs and Class Members detail the
25 amounts due on their loans. By issuing mortgage statements to Plaintiff and Class Members, Wells
26 Fargo represented to the Plaintiff and Class Members that all amounts due on these statements were
27 lawful and appropriate charges. Therefore, Defendants misrepresented to Plaintiff and Class Members in
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1 their monthly mortgage statements that all fees, charges and amounts due were lawful and proper.
2 Defendants also concealed improper inspection fees as “other charges” on Plaintiff and Class Members’
3 mortgage statements. Defendants’ misrepresentations, acts of concealment and failures to disclose were
4 knowing and intentional, and made for the purpose of deceiving Plaintiff and the Members of the Class
5 and obtaining their property for Defendants’ gain.
6

7 292. Because this is a class action, and there were numerous acts of mail and wire fraud that
8 were used to carry out the scheme, it would be impracticable for Plaintiff to plead all details of the
9 scheme with particularity. Therefore, Plaintiff cannot plead the precise dates of all of Defendants’ uses
10 of the U.S. mail and interstate wire facilities, and corresponding acts of mail and wire fraud, as this
11 information cannot be alleged without access to Defendants’ records.
12

13 293. Defendants either knew or recklessly disregarded the fact that the misrepresentations and
14 omissions described above were material, and Plaintiff and the Class relied upon the misrepresentations
15 and omissions. Had the Plaintiff and Class Members known the truth that these improper charges and
16 inspection fees were a profit center for Wells Fargo rather than a mechanism to protect any interest in
17 the property, they would not have paid the improper charges.
18

19 294. As a result, Defendants have obtained money and property belonging to the Plaintiff and
20 Class Members and Plaintiff and the Class Members have been injured in their business or property by
21 the Defendants’ overt acts of mail and wire fraud.
22

23 **PATTERN OF RACKETEERING ACTIVITY**

24 The Defendants have engaged in a “pattern of racketeering activity,” as defined by 18 U.S.C. §
25 1961(5), by committing at least two acts of racketeering activity, i.e., indictable violations of 18 U.S.C.
26 §§ 1341 and 1343 as described above, within the past four years. Wells Fargo also engaged in the
27 unauthorized practice of law in Plaintiff’s foreclosure case. In fact, each of the Defendants has committed
28 thousands of acts of racketeering activity. Each act of racketeering activity was related, had a similar

1 purpose, involved the same or similar vendors and method of commission, had similar results and
2 impacted similar victims, including Plaintiff and Class Members.

3 295. The multiple acts of racketeering activity that Defendants committed were related to each
4 other and amount to and pose a threat of continued racketeering activity, and therefore constitute a
5 “pattern of racketeering activity” as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(5).
6

7 **RICO VIOLATIONS**

8 296. Section 1962(c) of RICO provides that it “shall be unlawful for any person employed by
9 or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign
10 commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise’s affairs
11 through a pattern of racketeering activity ...”

12 297. Through the patterns of racketeering activities outlined above, the Defendants have also
13 conducted and participated in the affairs of the Wells Fargo Enterprise.
14

15 298. Each of the Defendants agreed to participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the
16 affairs of the Wells Fargo Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity comprised of numerous
17 acts of mail fraud and wire fraud and the unauthorized practice of Florida law and each Defendant so
18 participated in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c).
19

20 **SUBCLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 299. Plaintiff brings this action on his own and on behalf of a nationwide RICO SubClass
22 defined as all persons who opted out previously and who were charged MSP computer-generated fees by
23 wells Fargo as a result of a late payment of their mortgage and denied a mortgage modification because
24 of a faulty MSP computer program under Rules 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
25 Procedure.
26

27 300. Excluded from the SubClass are Defendants, any entity in which a Defendant has a
28 controlling interest or is a parent or subsidiary of, or any entity that is controlled by a Defendant, and

1 any Defendants' officers, directors, employees, affiliates, legal representatives, heirs, predecessors,
2 successors, and assigns.

3 301. Plaintiff does not know the exact sizes or identities of the individuals included in the
4 proposed SubClass since such information is in the exclusive control of Defendants but Plaintiff believes
5 that the proposed SubClass encompasses the 215 individuals who opted out of the previous RICO
6 litigation and are geographically dispersed throughout the United States. Therefore, the proposed
7 SubClass is so numerous that joinder of all Members is impracticable.
8

9 302. All Members of the SubClass have been subject to and affected by the same practices and
10 policies described herein. There are questions of law and fact that are common to the SubClass, and
11 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Members of the SubClass. These questions
12 include, but are not limited to the following:
13

- 14 a. The nature, scope and operations of Defendants' wrongful policies;
- 15 b. Whether Defendants have engaged in mail and wire fraud and the unauthorized
16 practice Florida law;
- 17 c. Whether Defendants engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity;
- 18 d. Whether the Wells Fargo Enterprise is an enterprise within the meaning of 18
19 U.S.C. § 1961(4);
- 20 e. Whether Defendants conducted or participated in the affairs of the Wells Fargo
21 Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c);
- 22 f. Whether Wells Fargo had a policy and practice of fraudulently charging persons
23 in arrears unlawful and unreasonable inspection fees;
- 24 g. Whether the Court can enter declaratory and injunctive relief; and
- 25 h. The proper measure of damages.
- 26
- 27
- 28

1 303. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the SubClass and do not
2 conflict with the interests of any other Members of the SubClass in that both the Plaintiff and the other
3 Members of the SubClass were subject to the same wrongful policies and practices by Wells Fargo.

4 304. The individually named Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the
5 proposed SubClass. He is committed to the vigorous prosecution of the SubClass' claims and will retain
6 an attorney who is qualified to pursue this litigation and has experience in class actions.

7 305. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Members of the SubClass would create
8 a risk of adjudications with respect to individual Members of the SubClass which would, as a practical
9 matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Members of the SubClass who are not parties to the action,
10 or could substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

11 306. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Members of the SubClass would create
12 a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual Members of the SubClass which
13 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the SubClass. Such
14 incompatible standards and inconsistent or varying adjudications, on what would necessarily be the
15 same essential facts, proof and legal theories, would also create and allow to exist inconsistent and
16 incompatible rights within the Plaintiff Class.

17 307. The Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
18 SubClass making final declaratory or injunctive relief appropriate.

19 308. The questions of law and fact common to Members of the SubClass predominate over
20 any questions affecting only individual Members.

21 309. Notice to the propose SubClass can be achieved through the U.S. mail to the addresses of
22 the Class Members that are kept within Defendants' records. Notice can also be supplemented via
23 publication.

1 310. A Class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
2 adjudication of the controversies herein in that:

3 a. Individual claims by the Class Members are impractical as the costs of pursuit far
4 exceed what any one individual Plaintiff has at stake.

5 b. As a result, individual Members of the Class have no interest in prosecuting and
6 controlling separate actions.

7 c. It is desirable to concentrate litigation of the claims herein in this forum.

8 d. The proposed Class action is manageable.
9

10 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

11 **VIOLATION OF RICO 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c)**

12 311. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the paragraphs above as if fully set out herein.

13 312. This claim for relief arises under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).

14 313. As set forth above, Defendants have violated 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) by conducting, or
15 participating directly or indirectly in the conduct of, the affairs of the Wells Fargo Enterprise through a
16 pattern of racketeering.

17 314. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiff and Class Members have been injured in their
18 business or property by both the predicate acts which make up the Defendants' patterns of racketeering
19 activity.

20 315. Specifically, Plaintiffs and Class Members have been injured in their business or property
21 in a variety of ways, including paying unlawful and unreasonable inspection and late fees and being
22 denied mortgage modifications because of a faulty computer program.

23 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.**

24 316. Plaintiff incorporates and reallege the paragraphs above as if fully set out herein.
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1 317. As set forth above, Defendants' scheme included making false and misleading
2 representations to Plaintiff and other Members of the SubClass of borrowers, which constitutes
3 unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business practices under the UCL.

4 318. Specifically, Plaintiff and the SubClass Members have been injured in their business or
5 property by paying for repeated drive-by inspections and improper late fees, which were unlawful and
6 unreasonable and denied mortgage modifications via a faulty computer program.

7 319. Plaintiff claims involve questions of common and general interest.

8 320. Plaintiff and SubClass Members have suffered losses of money as a result of Defendants'
9 unlawful, deceptive and unfair business practices through the payment of fees and mortgage
10 modification denials. As a result, of Defendants' violations of the UCL, Plaintiff and Members of
11 SubClass are entitled to bring this claim for disgorgement and to recover restitution, reasonable
12 attorneys' fees, and costs and other injunctive or declaratory relief as may be available.
13

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF/NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION/RICO**

15 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demand judgment against Defendants as follows:

16 a. Certification of the RICO SubClass pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
17 Civil Procedure, certifying Plaintiff as the representative of the Class, and designating his counsel as
18 counsel for the SubClass;
19

20 b. A declaration that Defendants have committed the violations alleged herein;

21 c. An award of treble the amount of damages suffered by Plaintiff and Members of
22 the SubClass as proven at trial plus interest and attorneys' fees and expenses pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
23 1962(c) and (d);
24

25 d. An award of damages suffered by Plaintiff and SubClass Members pursuant to the
26 provisions of California's consumer protection law identified above;
27
28

1 e. Ordering Defendants to disgorge the payments and profits they wrongfully
2 obtained at the expense of Plaintiff and SubClass Members;

3 f. Ordering that an accounting be made by Defendants of their wrongfully obtained
4 payments and profits;

5 g. An injunction to prevent Defendants from engaging in future fraudulent practices;

6 h. Costs of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses; and

7 i. Any such other further legal or equitable relief that this Court deems just and
8 proper.
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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable as a matter of right.

DATED: 10/20/21

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: /s/ Kurt L. Hudson 10/20/21
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